









Yearly Meeting Record  
for Women Friends  
Beginning 1806

to 1824

George Washington  
for his services  
March 1790



At a yearly Meeting of Women  
friends held at Newport for New England  
the 16<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Month 1806.

Met agreeable to the conclusion of last year, and  
after a time of solid waiting, and acceptable communica-  
-tions proceeded to business. The representatives ap-  
-pointed from the several Quarterly Meetings to attend  
this, are, for Rhode Island Mary Williams, Lydia Wicks,  
Freelove Harris, Sarah Wilber, Abigail Greene & Abigail  
Arnold; for Salem Betsy Purinton, Jane Gove, Eliza  
Purinton, & Hannah Collins; for Sandwich, Mary  
Howland, Thebe Tucker and Lucy Howland; for Fal-  
mouth Elizabeth Taber, and Abigail Horton; for Smith-  
field Rachel Bassett, Nancy Batty, Alice Rathburn  
and Lydia Reed; who being called, are present, except  
five, who have sent forward reasons for their absence,  
which are accepted. The subject of choosing a Clerk and  
assistant for this year, having been spread before the mee-  
-ting, Abigail Arnold is appointed Clerk, and Lydia Rotch  
assistant. We have received accounts from our several  
Quarterly Meetings which have been read. This Meeting  
adjourns to the same hour this afternoon that our  
men friends adjourn to. Met agreeable to adjourn-  
ment near the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, representatives present that  
attended this morning, except one, who is prevented by  
indisposition.



The queries with the answers from the several Quarterly Meetings have been read. Elizabeth Rodman, and Betsey Purinton are appointed, to collect a summary therefrom, to be recorded. We are informed from Rhode Island Quarter that they have approved of the public appearances in the ministry of Ebenezer Smith, and Sarah Miller, and also appointed Sarah Earl, and Lucy Anna Knowles, to the Station of Elders: from Salem that Abigail Darnie, and from Smithfield that Elizabeth Smith, and Sarah Hosen, are appointed to the station of Elders. Our Beloved friends Naomi Halstead from New partners, Lydia Arnold from Hartford, and Hannah Fisher from Philadelphia, are now with us with certificates of concurrence from their respective Meetings, which have been read, and their company and Gospel labours are truly acceptable. We have received Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia and New York, which have been read to our edification and encouragement. Mary Barnard, Sarah Earl, Susanna Barker, Lydia Rotch, Anna Smith, Mary Barker and Elizabeth Rotch, are appointed to take into consideration the subject of writing to those Meetings, and if now open for communication, produce it at a future sitting. This Meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow afternoon.

Third Day 17<sup>th</sup>. Met near the time adjourn'd to, representatives present, that attended the last sitting. A copy of a minute from the Monthly Meeting of New York, is now received on behalf of our friend Elizabeth Bowne, who is



acceptably with us. The friends appointed presented a summary which has been read & approved, and is as follows.

It appears by the answers from the several Meetings, that there are in each, a number who are concerned for the exemplary attendance of all our religious Meetings; while others are remiss on those important occasions. Altho love and unity, are not so generally maintained as Truth requires there are many who under the influence thereof, are concerned to guard against a detracting Spirit, and to reconcile differences; and are endeavoring for the right Education of the Youth, and to be exemplary themselves: but a manifest deviation from simplicity is sorrowfully apparent. The necessities of the poor measurably relieved, and care is extended for the education of their Children. Many instances of disorderly Company keeping, and merryfunt of society appear by the answers, on which account, it is expressed by the respective Meetings that labour has been extended. Some omissions in recording, also in certificates, which are under notice. There is a concern to deal with offenders we trust in a spirit of meekness, and to place judgment when necessary agreeably to discipline.

A proposition was made from the men's meeting that some alterations take place in our discipline which are as follow: Agreed for initiating convinced Persons into membership with us; That they appear at a preparative Meeting when circumstances will admit of it, and request to come under the care of Friends: and



and if the preparative meeting approve the same, that they acquaint the monthly meeting thereof: which is to be substituted instead of the forepart of the minute of 1760 page 21<sup>st</sup>. They further propose that the following minute be substituted instead of the minute of 1772 page 64<sup>th</sup>. "It is our sense and judgment, that it is improper for Brothers children, Sisters children, half Brothers children, and half Sisters children, to marry together, or any nearer than a first cousin's child. And if any notwithstanding, shall proceed to marry nearer than a first cousin's child, being previously cautioned and advised against it, that the monthly meeting where such belong, give forth a public testimony against them, and not receive such into unity again, until such meetings are well assured, that they have found a place of sincere repentance and are received in the truth." Which after solid consideration is with the preceding proposal united with, and they are directed to be inserted in all our books of discipline. The former under the head of "Convinced persons", and the latter under the head of "Marriage". This being read, was also united with by us. It appears to be the judgment of this meeting, that the representatives next year should meet at the Meeting house at the 7<sup>th</sup> hour in the morning, preceding the opening of the Yearly Meeting, and appoint a few of their number to collect a summary from the answers to the queries, and present it with them to the Meeting. The friends appointed presented an Epistle to the Yearly



Meeting of Philadelphia, which has been read and approved. Elizabeth Rodman and Anna Hacker are appointed to prepare endorsements for the certificates of the friends who are with us. This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to-morrow morning.

Fourth day 18<sup>th</sup>. Met near the time proposed. Representatives present that attended the first sitting. An Epistle to the Yearly meeting of New York has been presented and read, which being approved, is with that to Philadelphia signed by the clerks.

A deep concern hath been manifested in this meeting on various subjects, with a view to promote the improvement of every class amongst us, by awakening an attention to our particular duties: And Parents of children have been strongly urged to collect them often into quietude, to read something of an instructive nature, and inform them of the operation of a pure principle within, that shows them what is evil at a very tender age, and produces peace for well doing: That they may not be left ignorant of that which can preserve them in innocence; and in their rising years may also be persuaded to believe that modest apparel is not only most becoming, but will ever appear most agreeable to the discerning and wise.

A particular caution hath been feelingly expressed against visiting on the first day of the week, and not only then, but against large parties collecting together on other days, from an apprehension that much trifling conversation often takes place, to the hurt of many; Ye are far that



that this practice hath frequently removed very profitable impressions from young, and tender minds, and likewise from those further advanced in years. That a very earnest solicitude hath been felt in this Yearly Meeting, that all our members may be careful to discourage it, and endeavor more generally, that those under their direction be usefully employed.

We have also been counselled to promote the rest, and retirement, of our families at suitable times, by avoiding an unnecessary provision for the Body on meeting days; setting them at liberty as much as possible to attend to the indispensable duty of religious worship. As these remarks result from much painful exercise in divers minds, we desire that all may cordially receive instruction, and manifest by an improvement, that we are <sup>sincerely</sup> desirous of advancing in the paths of piety, consistently with our high profession.

This Meeting adjourns to the 11<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon. Not agreeable to adjournment. Representatives present that attended yesterday. The friends appointed presented endorsements for our friends Certificates, which have been signed. The Clerk is directed to forward to our Quarterly Meetings transcripts of the Epistles we have received, with extracts from these minutes relative to the two alterations in our Discipline. also the remarks which in some degree comprise the exercise that has been expressed amongst us on various accounts.



A general printed Epistle from the Yearly Meeting in London  
has been read to our edification.

Having been permitted in some of our sittings to feel the  
influence we trust of best love, cementing many minds in a  
lively engagement for our individual progression in the neces-  
sary work of our day; we conclude, intending if permitted,  
to meet you at your usual place.

Signed in behalf of the Meeting Abigail Arnold Clerk  
this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode  
Island by adjournments from the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo to the  
10<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1806.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in  
Philadelphia.

Dear Friends.

Altho' we have had humbly to feel in  
our present Annual Gathering that the state of things amongst  
us does not so admit of the arising of the Spring of Life as for  
its reviving influence to be generally diffused, to the uniting  
of our hearts in the covenant thereof & yet in remembrance of  
the promises made to those who are faithfully engaged  
to wait upon the Lord, we are encouraged to hope for a renew-  
al of strength from His bountiful hand; which we most  
gratefully acknowledge is still turned towards us in mercy



and evidently disposed to bestow the best of blessings, if we were but  
disposed to receive them with simplicity and thankfulness, ~~in any~~  
~~position~~ dependent situation.

Under a consideration of his goodness,  
and comparing the small returns we are making, with those  
that are unquestionably his due; the many years of our lives  
which have passed away, without procuring <sup>peace</sup> ~~love~~ to ourselves  
or praise to his excellent name; we are ready to admire at the  
continuation of his favours and to exclaim "how shall  
we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" And being impress-  
ed with a fear that many will ~~come to little~~ ~~know~~  
fully to feel that their knowledge of his ways, and government  
extends little further than theirs formerly did, who could say  
"thou hast taught in our streets", we are very desirous that such  
with us and with you may awfully perceive before it be too  
late that it is not the heavens of the word but the doors of  
the will that receive the convincing evidence of an admittance  
into the Realm of light.

Notwithstanding it is painfully evi-  
dent that there is not that individual engagement to stand  
in our proper allotments; that simple obedience to divine  
requirements which enables, to look with confidence towards  
the holy sanctuary for help, and preservation; our faith, and  
hope have been in some measure confirmed in the ~~view~~  
~~view~~ of an ancient ~~disturbance~~ <sup>disturbance</sup>, that the ~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> part  
is his People; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance; He found  
him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness,



he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye".

May all such as have witnessed in any degree his owning presence, whether in our public assemblies, or in their more secret retirements, be encouraged often to draw near unto him, that they may receive in due season, their portion of the blessing designed for those that love and fear him. And should a concern of this kind increase amongst us, there is cause to believe that the precious effects, would have a tendency to draw the minds of others, to seek an interest in the same substantial enjoyments.

We observe that various portions of instruction are comprised in your acceptable Epistle now received, and desire that the solicitude which often accompanies these communications may not be lost; but may rather serve the valuable purpose of exciting one another to the pursuit of those things that make for peace. To which we must all and remain your friends. Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by Abigail Arnold Clerk.

From our yearly Meeting of Women friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 16<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mo to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same month 1820.

To the yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York.

Dear Friends

With a warm remembrance of the joyful extendings of heavenly regard to us, at this time do we salute you, and trust in that love which is the badge of true discipleship, much desiring that







bring themselves in the structure and admonitions of the Lord.  
It hath seemed to us that some of the children are asking bread,  
and there are too few to break it to them. We believe were  
parents in general as much engaged for their children's growth and  
improvement as the Israelites, in they are to procure for them  
treasures which perish with the using, there would not be such a  
departure from the law and the testimony as now appears.

Dear friends let us remember the promise to such as seek first  
the kingdom of God and the righteousness thereof, and believe  
that all things necessary shall be added: why need we distrust his  
bounty for he is a rich rewarder of all those who diligently seek him;  
and that we may this in the blessed experiences we have  
been renewedly sensible of the need there is of endeavouring to have self  
in no expectation being willing often to go down into suffering,  
that in the appointed season we may know an arising in victory.

We may acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable Epistle of this  
year, which has been read to our edification and encouragement.  
In a degree we trust of Gospel fellowship we conclude your affectionate  
friend

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by  
Abigail Arnold Clerk this year.



It is a yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at  
Longport near New England the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1807  
After a short course of religious instruction to our  
sister. The friends appointed at the second meeting & the  
times to attend this year. Anne Barker, Hannah Greene,  
Sarah Fisk, Lydia Weeks, and Elizabeth  
Thurston. For Salem, Deborah Rogers and Betsy Perinton.  
For Cambridge, Elizabeth Wright, Mary Hubbard, Judith Barker,  
Martha Gifford, Sarah Hapley and Eunice Mitchell. For  
Helmuth, Mary Winston, Lydia Winston and Lydia  
Pangloss. For Andover, Elizabeth Barker, and Elizabeth Barker.  
Rachel Bapst and Lydia Gates, who being called are present  
except one who is prevented attending by indisposition:  
They having proposed Lydia Botsch and Eunice Mitchell  
for first and second they are accordingly appointed.  
The Queries have been read, with accounts and answers received  
from our Quarterly Meetings, but the answers of last year  
respecting married women not being fully adopted, Mary  
Hawland, Elizabeth Hiny and Susanna Barker are appointed  
to prepare a summary, and produce at a future sitting.  
Certificates on behalf of our beloved friends Sarah Talbot  
Sarah Pope, and Mary Throres from their respective Annual  
ly and quarterly Meetings in Pennsylvania and New  
- Jersey expressive of unity with their present engagement, have  
been presented and read, whose company with that of several  
others from distant Yearly Meetings is acceptable to us.  
This meeting adjourns to the same time this afternoon that  
our Men friends may adjourn theirs.

Second day afternoon. Met at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. The Repre-  
sentatives present that first attended except one, who is  
absent thro' indisposition.

We have received a lively Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women friends held in London in the 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1806.  
which hath been read to our instruction - also acceptable  
communications from those of Philadelphia and New York



the present year . . . Betsy Perinton, Dorcas Brown, Hannah Robinson, Hepsibeth & Sarah (last three) & Sarah Fish and Ruth Davis are appointed to prepare Epistles to those Meetings and produce them at a future sitting.

This Meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow afternoon.

Third day 16<sup>th</sup> Met agreeable to adjournment, one of the Representatives present. Meeting by indisposition. The first appointment were presented the summary as follows.

It appears that all our Meetings for religious worship are well attended except in a few instances. The present absence attending on account of indisposition of body and difficulty of travelling, although a remission is evident in the participation in the things of spirit with us. The whole of the time spent in the study of sacred scriptures and other religious literature.

Love and unity in a good degree maintained; this a detracting disposition is sorrowfully apparent in some.

Where differences have arisen, care hath been taken to end them. . . there appears to be a considerable number engaged to cultivate those who are in plainness, not to give examples themselves; although there is an evident deficiency in many in those respects; for which some labour hath been bestowed. The Holy Scriptures are read but not so frequently as would be best. The use of the gun is generally abstained from, but the practice of hunting is thought further.

What is apparent is manifest. There is a concern on the minds of most present and questions to extend counsel and advice to those who the more necessary marriage with the Lord. There are several instances of disorderly company keeping and marrying out of society.

Clear in the four succeeding duties. Marriages duly recorded. Not so careful in births and deaths. Care is maintained to the utmost in the various parts after and to place judgement where it appears necessary.



according to Discipline; yet in some instances weakness is apparent.

Which exhibiting a painful view of various defects amongst us the members of many are sincerely affected with sorrow in observing their continuance from year to year, and as a means of lessening them, we have been annually expostulated with, to make an individual examination, how far we are contributing thereto: and whether by prompt right engagement of mind and proper exertions in our different callings, there may not be an improvement so far as may be as to be somewhat evident from the answers if favoured with ability to produce them another year.

The committee selected for that purpose have prepared Epistles to those parties, feeling our importance, which when read and approved are signed by the Clerk - The following alteration in our discipline being proposed by Rev. Friends was read and united with in this meeting.

"It is the judgement of this meeting that monthly meetings have a right, in cases of reversal of their judgement against any individual member on account of irregular dealing only, to take up the case again, and proceed according to discipline: And it is recommended to superior meetings to be careful, when recommending over on account of irregular dealing only, to express the same in their reports. This is directed to be inserted in all our books of Discipline under the head of 'Appeals'."

Lydia Weeks and Lydia Rotch are requested to attend to the business of embowments for the certificates of the friends who are now with us - This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow morning.

4<sup>th</sup> day 17<sup>th</sup> met according to adjournment, the Representatives present.

Endorsements on the certificates of our friends who are now with us, have been read and signed. -



The London printed epistle of last year, containing interesting and weighty counsel hath been read to our satisfaction and comfort.

Notwithstanding we have in divers of our sittings at this time been sensible that the life of religion is low amongst us, we may acknowledge that we have been favoured with evidence that life is graciously offered, and a hope arises that with some it will be availingly received.

Under a sense of thankfulness for numerous favours recently conferred we conclude, intending if permitted to meet again at the usual time and place next year.

Signed as and in behalf of the Meeting

Lydia Ratch Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held in London.

Dear Friends

We have felt our minds renewedly animated on the reading of your acceptable Epistle, with that love which is extensively diffusive, and our desires are enlarged for the increasing circulation of Christian testimony among the members of the militant Church: believing we should more eminently partake of this fellowship, were we more devoted, more truly concerned for the exaltation of the cause of Righteousness in the earth. While we lament the deficiency in this concern, which is too apparent in many important respects, we cannot but rejoice in some degree in the belief, that there is an exercised number under varied



allotments who are not indifferent to that which relates to their best interest, but who often find themselves nearly encompassed with dismay, from a view of the dejected state of the Heavenly life: yet being more willing to descend into the deeps, memorials are at seasons brought up, of having partaken even there of spiritual sustenance.

We may acknowledge from renewed experience, a sensibility of the great need there is, in these collected capacities of diligence and fervency of spirit, in endeavouring to draw near to the only source of availing help, that we may be in a situation capable of breathing forth with humble confidence the sense of our various wants; and then this preparation of heart & hope may be received of obtaining an increase of strength proportioned to the exigence of the day. And inasmuch as we have still many evidences of Heavenly regard notwithstanding our frequent withdrawing from manifested duty, should not these awaken our gratitude, our love, and more ready obedience to that, will which promotes sanctification, and secures a lively hope of safety in every exposure upon a tempestuous sea. Surely the necessity is great for vigorous efforts in securing to ourselves an interest so permanent - And since it is consistent with the wisdom and goodness of the Eternal, to take made with: then, may nothing be suffered to shake the resolution of any, who have wisely adopted this language, "He is my God and I will praise him in tribulation: my father's God and I will exalt him." In these, the waters of Marah will undoubtedly be made sweet, for these the "right hand" of the Lord will become



glorious instance: And tho' many baptisms may be necessary  
for perfecting the work, how comforting will be the seasons  
wherein they can say "Thou in thy mercy hast led forth  
the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided  
them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation."

We desire that large accessions to this  
number both with you and us may rejoice the hearts  
of the faithful, we are your affectionate friends.

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting

Lydia Rotch Clk

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

Notwithstanding there remains to be much  
work for improving amongst us, as a religious City, because  
so many come not up to these Opportunities with hearts prepared  
to offer constant sacrifices, we trust that thro' the superintend-  
ing care and compassion of our Heavenly Father, whom we are  
renewedly constrained to believe is ever graciously disposed to do  
his children good, there is still preserved a baptised number who  
are preferring piety before their sinners joy: And these  
sensibly feel that a great loss is sustained for want of a more  
general, lively engagement of mind to aspire after the  
renewings of that pure wisdom which alone is profitable to  
direct, and which, were we to become more attentive to

its dictates would unquestionably guard us against every  
unwarranted pursuit, and unwittingly guide in the paths of peace & joy.

In considering the manifold privileges we still possess  
the momentous prize held up to our view, as a crown worthy of  
the most fervent unremitting labors to obtain; we are led  
earnestly to desire, that we may become individually sensible  
of the importance of our station on Earth; and yet more  
effectually realize that we have the most encouraging incitements  
to the uniform discharge of our various Christian Duties  
duties which first relate to the subjection of our own minds  
to that government of the increase whereof it is declared  
there shall never be an end; and which may thence be  
usefully performed in public or private society in such a  
manner as to insure the consciousness of having humbly  
endeavored to do the best in our power. This conviction must  
prove an anchor in every storm—A presage of being finally  
center'd in a state of unchangeable felicity.

Several Friends from you, and other young Meetings  
have attended the sittings of ours whose company has  
been grateful to us. Your Epistle of the present year  
has been acceptably read in our Meeting, & in a measure  
of that we which desir'd the promotion of the general  
good, we bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting

Lydia Rotch Clerk this Year



To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York

Dear Friends

Having our minds purged with that care which is the bond of peace, and sincerely we can alone receive ability rightly to salute each other, we are at this season encouraged to address you, and to inform that the reading of your Epistle has brought you again near the best feelings of some amongst us; and at this we are in a degree favoured with this precious influence, we are often clad as with the mantle of sorrow from a lively anxiety for many weaknesses. And in consideration of the feeble state of things amongst us, our minds have been excited in a peculiar manner to seek for the hidden treasure which remaineth to be hid, yet we have been anew disposed to trust in his condescending love, and the might of his power, to deliver us from the bondage of that opposing spirit in its various operations which so wars with, and obstructs the coming of the King Son of Christ, and its work in our hearts. This spiritual treasure, may we be aroused to seek with all diligence, and when we are favoured to lay hold on that faith which opens the understanding, to view the greatness and majesty of Him who is our helper to say in the Lord's words, "may we endeavour to arise in the valley of humblity, when the Lord has long, for still greater raisings. There is a loud call for willingness to become engaged in the work of the spiritual house, that so we may be formed according to the wisdom of the great architect as temples to His honour, who delights in the order and economy of his creation.

To our beloved young friends, what shall we say? and in what

what language convey to you, the ardent solicitude which hath  
and still continues to be felt on your account: for you, are we ten-  
derly concerned, and the aspirations of some of our souls have  
been, that you may individually say "The Lord is my God, I will  
prepare him an habitation, my Father's God, and it will exalt  
him". that you may be strengthened by his power so to run as to  
obtain the best of blessings, even that of preservation, the blessing  
of the heavens above and of the earth beneath, which will most  
assuredly be yours, as you are concerned devotedly to resign your-  
selves to his guidance, who will not require at your hands any-  
thing which he does not give ability to perform; listen then  
we entreat you to the secret intimations of his Spirit, and  
in obedience thereto faithfully perform whatever labour may  
be assigned you; for want of this many very many we  
believe have had largely to partake of a cup of suffering  
which by an early and entire surrender should not have  
been their portion. Wherefore we have desired that you might  
not for want of submission subject yourselves to the anguish  
resulting from a neglect of thought which you are persuaded  
you are called to do in of any sacrifice which you believe  
it necessary to make, and in ~~the~~ proportion to the value-  
time of your <sup>ministry that of you</sup> ~~Ministry~~ labour, in that proportion will be  
reward you, with that peace which the world cannot  
give, neither can it take away. We have no reason  
your friends and sisters. Signed in and on behalf of  
said Meeting. Lydia Rolch Clerk this year.



A. A. Sperry, Hunting of Hominid Friends, Field and  
Blind Island, Dec 13<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> Mo<sup>e</sup> 1808.

This meeting appears to the 9<sup>th</sup> hour to mean nothing.  
to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour at the 9<sup>th</sup> hour. The committee present that attend  
the meetings, except one, who is present by invitation.  
The friends appointed, have presented a summary which has been  
read and was followed.

Our meetings, however, are not so much attended  
by the greater part of our members; yet a spirit of indifference is  
manifest with some, and indifference. There is some with some  
members, especially in the morning and other unbecoming  
behaviour.

A great many of our members appear to want amongst us  
considerable proportion of our members, who guard against  
attention to the same, and in some cases, in the same way, in  
the same manner, and in the same manner.

There is a care exercised by friends to bring up those matters  
which are in plainness, and to guard them against pernicious  
books and corrupt conversation, many of whom are good  
examples themselves, while others seem deficient in these duties.  
The Scriptures are read in our families—

Mostly clear of the improper use of spirituous liquors,  
the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort,  
generally, except a few, who are of a different opinion, in the  
Marriages &c.

The poor are attended to, and none of our children appear  
to be placed out from amongst friends.

There is a holy language, which has been secured, and has  
been extended; most friends discontinue disorderly marriages.

There is a great deal of interest in the law, and in the  
law records are generally attended to, where any have remained, and  
in some cases, it is a great deal of interest, and in some cases, it is a great deal of interest.

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The Epistle to the Society Meeting of friends in the year 1811.









presented which has been read & approved and is now  
 printed by the press of the printer in London. The 1<sup>st</sup> of  
 1807 has been read to the edification and satisfaction of this meet-  
 ing. - Altho we are sensible that the present time is a time  
 of suffering & sorrow yet a ray of comfort & hope is  
 seen in some of our minds on viewing the becoming gravity of our young  
 women through the several sittings of this Meeting earnestly trust-  
 ing that by attendance to the Divine illuminating principle in  
 each of our hearts there may be a conversion of millions of sinners  
 here, when the present labourers shall be gathered to their ever-  
 lasting habitation. - Under a degree of thankfulness for former  
 mercies & promises, intending if possible to be present at  
 the next time and place.

Signed on behalf of this Meeting

E. Wright & Co.

I have over yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
 in Philadelphia by adjournments from the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> of the  
 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1808.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in Philadelphia

Dear Friends

Altho we are sensible that our own particular state  
 in a religious and moral respect is greatly improved and pro-  
 gress is made in that which is so evidently our duty. There  
 are still many who are ignorant of the Christian religion  
 and of the Church; we are desirous of witnessing the circulation  
 of that powerful and glorious light which is sometimes felt in our  
 souls like these, that we are made acquainted with the ex-  
 ercises of their own minds for general edification upon the  
 right foundation. - Your obedient & grateful servant

we apprehend, to introduce some of our minds into this fellowship,  
regulate under suffering, and let us earnestly to have, that patience  
may be cultivated until its perfect power is effected, and a gradual pro-  
gression known towards that state, where the spirit of bearing  
may be exchanged for the garment of praise. But in a consideration  
here - the deep the sin and the corruption which are mani-  
fest amongst us, notwithstanding the spirituality of our profession,  
we are much willing to acknowledge, that those dignifications com-  
parable to the operation of the fire, the sword and the hammer  
may be so experienced, as that we may be prepared to offer our  
offering with greater purity of heart, free from the dregs of  
selfishness, under humble specious an appearance of humility  
to say some have cherished - that having rejected the vain  
imaginary wealth, we may become an inheritance in the eternal  
life, and become the humble peacemakers of those blessings, which  
our merciful Creator hath bestowed and promised us, with an  
capacity to enjoy. - Let us not limit his bounty, by our  
reluctance to receive the mercies offered by infinite love which  
would qualify the mind instinctively to receive the bounties  
of a heaven spread on all the world of creation, and when  
the heart is not only to receive, but to be a part, and as the  
humbling sensibility of our deficiencies in rightly appreciating them,  
may justly excite in the language of the Psalmist "and what  
is more that thou art mindful of him?"

Let us then, O Lord, we beseech thee, that  
those who will save and us, who are at times seeking secret  
riches and righteousness, but have not so obtained a settlement  
on a solid foundation as to remain unshaken when storms arise.  
May these suffer nothing, either in themselves or in others, to abate  
the ardour of their pursuit, altho' it may require the whole ac-  
cession of light to oppose the suggestions of human nature, and  
to suppress the errors of the present state: yet as the pro-  
cess of divine grace is suffering - for every reason of suffering, may  
it become our united engagement to cultivate those dispositions



which promote an advancement in holiness that is a frequent investigation of our motives to action, the lifting of persecution, any triumph over darkness and a qualification to receive to us that the work of righteousness is power and the effect thereof is remarkable to begethings and appearance forever.

The conduct, in a degree of sympathetic feeling for those who are deeply experienced in adversity, rather than being that a necessary hope and being very often seen in their minds that "He who sitteth in the darkness shall dwell among them, and lead their unto living fountains of water;" and finally <sup>shall</sup> wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by  
 Ethelred Arnold

Thursdays Yearly Meeting of Friends Friends  
 held at Abchurch Lane, London, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> mo<sup>th</sup>  
 to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1808.

The Yearly Meeting of Friends Friends  
 held in a large hall

Dear Friends

As I have had no great limited experience of the circulation of that life, which enables the exercised members of the Church to rejoice together, we are engaged to offer at least the substance of our views, and by so doing, believing that this matter has been more fully witnessed amongst us at this time, had no principal evidence been manifested in early evidence as into the heart of our own hearts and shut King the other upon every feeling, unprofitable suggestion.

But in view of our willingness submitting to the revealing power of truth, we may acknowledge our apprehensions that the current of life hath been checked, and our energy hath been compared to a decay rather than that of Power over

6x  
 feeling that we may increasingly become the united pa-  
 tience of a pure & unblemished fellowship, we are now going off to  
 10 writers. —



At a Yearly Meeting of Women friends held at  
Newport on Rhode Island the 12<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1809

Met agreeable to the conclusion of last year and after a  
season of retirement proceeded to business; The representatives  
appointed from the several Quarterly Meetings to attend  
this are as follows. For Rhode Island Deborah Greene, Lydia  
Smith, Sarah Fowler, Sarah Wilbour, & Sarah East. For  
Sandwich, Lydia Mitchel, Elizabeth Rodman, Merab  
Gardner, Eunice Mitchel, Jedidah Macy, & Deborah Howland.  
For Salem, Meriam Gove, Elizabeth Bried, & Hannah Furlington.  
For Fairmount, Hannah Steeper. For Smithfield, Eliza Southwick,  
Patience Hall, Lydia Gates & Elizabeth Smith. all present except  
Lydia Mitchel, Jedidah Macy, Meriam Gove & Eunice Mitchel.  
each of whom render'd satisfactory reasons for their absence.

The representatives inform'd the Meeting that they had  
consider'd the subject of providing Clerks & propose Mary Williams  
Clerk & Mary Rotch a sistant; they are accordingly appointed  
to that service. Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting inform'd  
that they had approv'd of the publick appearances in the line  
of the Ministry of Susanna Barker, Hannah Dennis & Sarah Fish.  
and Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that they had appointed Eliza  
beth Mitchel to the station of an Elder. Our endeared friends  
Esther Griffin & Hannah Field from Purchase Monthly  
Meeting, Elizabeth Hunt & Anna Hotwell from Charney  
and



and Plainfield Monthly Meeting. Anna Merritt and Hannah Mitchel from Vine Partners, attended & presented Certificates from their respective Monthly & Quarterly Meetings expressing of their unity & Sympathy with them in their present Religious engagement. Lydia Rotch & Betsey Purington are appointed to prepare Endorsements & present at a future Meeting.

The Queries with accounts from the Quarterly Meetings, and answers to the Queries have been read. On observing the acknowledgment of negligence in the attendance of our religious Meetings instructive remarks have been made to excite us to greater diligence in this important duty, as one on which much of the progress of the Christian traveller depends. - It was also painfully observed that there were instances from one Quarterly Meeting of the improper use of spirituous Liquors; it is the counsel of this Meeting to those who may have unguardedly indulged in such practices, solemnly to consider the awful consequences of such an evil; it is like standing on the brink of a precipice, and we desire they may become engaged to implore assistance from that source which alone can enable them to obtain the Victory, before inevitable ruin overtakes them. - We tenderly intreat if there are any who may have been induced to use it Medicinally, that it be with great caution & care, and that they consider whether the danger of its desolating effects if much used will not counterbalance any advantage possibly to be derived from it. - The subject of disorderly Marriages has claimed the attention of those who are concerned for the Welfare of the young & inexperienced; they have been feelingly admonished seriously to reflect, & take warning by the repeated instances which have occurred in many, who not duly appreciating the



the value of their memberships in early life have incautiously entered  
into this solemn connection & exposed themselves & their innocent offspring  
to innumerable difficulties, & deeply regretted when too late, the want  
of the fostering care & strengthening aid of Religious Society; a tender  
solicitude hath been expressed that our hopes of the future usefulness of  
this part of the family may not be frustrated by a Voluntary aliena-  
tion from the privileges we possess. - This Meeting adjourns to  
the fourth hour this afternoon. - 4<sup>th</sup> hour met near the time pro-  
posed Representatives all present that attended in the morning.  
Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of Women Friends of Philadelphia  
& New York have been received & read, which were endearing &  
cordial to many minds, encouraging our patient perseverance  
in the cause of Righteousness & increased dedication of heart;  
after solidly deliberating on the subject we appoint Elizabeth  
Rodman, Dorcas Gardner, Hannah Collins, & Lydia Roth  
to prepare essays of Epistles to those Meetings & lay before this at  
a future sitting. - It being discovered that Sarah Fish was not  
present in the morning when named to an appointment, Deborah  
Davis is requested to assist Abigail Russell in preparing a  
summary. - The London printed epistle has been read to our  
satisfaction & comfort, containing very instructive advice and  
Counsel upon many important subjects. - This meeting adjourns  
to the ninth hour tomorrow morning. - 13<sup>th</sup> met near the ninth  
hour. Representatives all present that have attended the pre-  
ceding sittings except Deborah Howland who was prevented by  
indisposition. - Our more friends inform'd that the meeting for  
Sufferings had prepared a revision of the Discipline to lay before  
their meeting & propos'd our uniting in a solid consideration of  
the alterations suggested; accordingly the shutters were raised  
and the meeting united in one, Adjourn'd to the fourth hour in the  
afternoon



afternoon. - Met by adjournment near the fourth hour: after hearing the former Discipline & that, now propos'd to be adopted both read, it appears best to select a few friends to unite with a Committee of men friends for a further discussion & deliberation upon the subject. accordingly we appoint Betsey Purington, Abigail Robinson, Hannah Sleepes, Sarah Wilbour, Freelove Harris, Sarah Otis, and Mary Williams to that service. - The committee appointed produced the copy of an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women friends in Philadelphia which was approv'd & sign'd. - This Meeting adjourns to the third hour tomorrow afternoon. - 11<sup>th</sup> Met near the hour adjourn'd to; Representatives all present that have attended heretofore. - The friends appointed presented a Summary which is as follows. - All our Meetings have been attended except in a few instances occasioned by the inclemency of the weather, a remissness is still observable in some, in this important duty, particularly in the attendance of Midweek Meetings, for which some care has been bestow'd; Mostly clear of sleeping and other unbecoming behaviour. Love & Unity in a good degree maintain'd. retraction guarded against by most; where differences have arisen care has been taken to end them. - Some endeavour to educate those under their care in plainness (tho' the simplicity of our profession is evidently deviated from) and to guard them from pernicious reading & unprofitable company & to be exemplary themselves. The holy Scriptures are read in friends families. - By the report of one Quarterly Meeting it appears that they are not wholly clear of the improper use of spirituous liquors, on which account care has been extended. Care has been taken of the poor in each part of this Query, none plac'd out from among friends. It appears there are instances of Company keeping & Marrying, out of Society for which care has been taken. - Mostly clear in regard to the 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> queries some deficiency in recording, not wholly clear



clear as to Certificates. Friends generally careful to deal with offenders  
& to place judgement where it appears necessary, according to discipline.

Presented & read an essay of an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of  
Women friends at New York which was approved & signed. This  
Meeting adjourns to the 8<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow Morning. 15<sup>th</sup> met near the  
hour. Representatives present. The indorsements were presented on  
behalf of our endeared Sisters from the Western Yearly Meetings  
(whose participation in the exercise of this Meeting & labours of Gospel love  
have been truly strengthening & edifying) and were signed in both  
Meetings. The committee on the subject of Discipline reported such  
alterations as they judged proper to be made, which were satis-  
sfactory to this meeting, and are adopted. Under an humbling sense  
that this Yearly Meeting hath been a season of favour gratefully  
to be commemorated; in which the hope of some hath been renewed  
(who were nearly ready to faint through discouragement) to trust  
in the Lord Jehovah in whom is everlasting strength; which claims our full  
trust, obedience & submissive resignation to every refining baptism that  
may be graciously meted to us for our furtherance & establishment  
in the blessed truth. We conclude to meet again if permitted at the usual  
time & place. Signed on behalf of the same by

Mary Williams, Clerk

From our Yearly meeting of Women friends held on Rhode  
Island by adjournments from the 12<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same  
inclusive 1809

To the Yearly Meeting of Women friends held in Philadelphia.  
Being renewedly sensible that the fountain of life is open, that  
all may share its salutary influence, and that "the Lord is rich unto  
all that call upon him." We desire gratefully to appreciate every  
token of his favour, & by increased diligence in availing ourselves  
of this unspeakable privilege, our minds may be often baptized  
together



together, under a covering of that cementing love which enables us to partake of each others sufferings, & to rejoice in one another's Joy. In considering how far this transcends every transitory possession we lament that any should remain unacquainted with the renovating power whereby old things may be done away, and all things become new; and are led to crave that such may be peculiarly induced at these seasons, to enter into covenant with the most High, under a persuasion that he hath a right to the sacrifice of our vills, and removeth nothing, that can advance our best interest. but ever keeping covenant with the children of men, is sustaining the character of a good Shepherd, a Bishop of souls, and will proportion his refining dispensations with perfect wisdom. —

May none of us therefore reject the offers of his righteous government, but by a timely submission to those manifestations which convince us that we are not walking in the way to peace, become happily experienced in the all sufficiency of saving help, which will prepare the mind with humble confidence to adopt the language of the Royal Psalmist, "From the end of the earth I will cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for thou hast been a shelter for me, & a strong tower from the Enemy, I will abide in thy Tabernacle forever; I will trust in the covert of thy Wings; for thou O God hast heard my vows; Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name."

Many are the gracious promises that await our acceptance and the truly wise will not trifle with these for a present gratification, seeing that things of Eternal duration are comprised in the simple act of Obedience to the Divine will. — —

We wish not improperly to enlarge, but we feel it to be a matter of deep importance that all should walk in the light of the Lord who bringeth out those which are bound with chains, but the rebellious dwell in a dry land. — — —



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The reading of your acceptable Epistle with the company of exercised Sisters from other Yearly Meetings, hath been refreshing & instructive to many minds who desire the rolling of the stone from the Well of life that the flock may be watered and journey forward. —

In the renewal of Sisterly Sympathy and fellowship we conclude and are your friends. —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting by  
Mary Williams. Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1809

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York. In the remembrance of the pious resolution of the Prophet to "rejoice in the Lord" we are encouraged dear friends to salute you, desiring that the same dependance upon him, may be manifested in the present day, by all those who have "handled of the Word of life, and tasted of the powers of the World to come" — seeing that similar seasons of stripping are the allotment of all those who dare not place their trust in the arm of flesh. Believing that there are still preserved such as are willing to be often baptized into an increased acquaintance with the operation of the one saving faith; We crave the establishment of those upon the right foundation, & that nothing may be able to shake their confidence in the Fatherly care & protection of an Almighty helper; who being called upon in the day of trouble will draw near <sup>unto</sup> those engaged "to offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and to put their trust in him"

Considering that time is passing swiftly on, and the attention of those actively engaged in religious concerns will ere long be turned toward the Youthful part of our Society, for successors, we feel particularly solicitous that these may be preserved in the hour of Temptation

and



and their minds strengthened to deny themselves every gratification that would lead into bondage & disqualify them for the reception of the messenger of the Covenant, who cometh suddenly to his Temple, for the pure in heart shall abide the day of his coming, & experience his reward to be with him. But if thro' disobedience to the gentle intimations of his holy spirit, the mind becomes inured, and remains insensible of profitable impressions, these will have to dwell in a state of unfruitfulness, & like the heat in the desert, know not when good cometh. We feel a deep concern that such may arise & call upon their God, lest they nearly perish, whilst in the Father's house there is spiritual bread to spare: for why should any continue at a distance from the true fold of rest & peace? the terms are not hard, except we make them so to ourselves by partial compliance, & improperly indulging our own wills, in preference to the Divine will & casting our care upon him who careth for the least, as well as the greatest in the family.

Apprehending that unto many both with you & us is offered "the excellency of dignity, & the excellency of power" We desire that the gracious designs of a wise Creator may be fully answered by cultivating a disposition to say we are the clay, so thou, the great Potter with us as seemeth good in thy sight. Thus an interest will be mercifully granted in Him who giveth the Victory over all our souls' enemies, permitting at seasons a foretaste of the joy to be revealed hereafter, and finally centering in the realms of bliss, all those who faithfully endure to the end. The company of exercised Sisters with an instructive Epistle from your Yearly meeting, have administered to our encouragement & edification. —

Under the uniting influence of Gospel love we desire to conclude and remain your friends. — Signed in & on behalf of the Meeting  
Wm Mary Williams - Clerk



At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island  
the 15<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1810.

After a season of retirement proceeded to business.

The representatives for Rhode Island are Susanna Treeborn, Hepzibah Harris, Mary Spencer & Dorcas Brown. For Salem Deborah Rogers, Betsey Purington & Hannah Collins. For Sandwich Mary Howland, Lydia Russell, Mary Wing & Patience Howland, For Falmouth Hebe Cobb, Abigail Horton, Mary Reed, & Elizabeth Horton. For Smithfield Sarah Holder, Deborah Morry, Elizabeth Bowen & Hannah Callan all present except one who render'd an acceptable reason for absence. Having the acceptable company of our friends Sarah Hull & Mary Hull with copies of minutes from the M<sup>c</sup> Meeting of Stanford in the State of New York, one dated in the fourth, & the other in the fifth month of this year expressive of unity in their present engagement which have been read. We have received accounts from our Quarterly Meetings constituting this, which have been read, & we are inform'd from Rhode Island that they have united in the appointment of Elizabeth Chase & Mary Carl to the station of Elders, from Sandwich that they have approved of the public appearances in the Ministry of Elizabeth Barker & Mary Crosby & of the appointment of Rhoda Howland, Mary Howland, Susanna Bunker, Esther, Newitt, & Tabatha Bailey to the station of Elders.

We have received a lovely Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London in the 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1809 & one from that of Philadelphia held in the last 4<sup>th</sup> month which have been read to our encouragement & instruction. We adjourn to the fourth hour this afternoon. Met agreeable to adjournment, the representatives present that before attended, The Clerk of the last year being unable to attend this morning. Lydia Rutch was desired to attend to the business of opening the



the meeting, & with Eunice Mitchel now appointed as Clerk  
& assistant. The Queries with the answers thereto have been  
read, Abigail Arnold & Dorcas Brown are requested to collect  
a summary & bring to a future sitting. a salutary Epistle from  
the Yearly Meeting of Women friends in New York, held in 5<sup>th</sup>  
last has been read to our satisfaction. Elizabeth Rodman, Betsy  
Purington, Sarah Russell, Hannah Collins, Mary Barker & Dorcas  
Brown, & Mary Howland, are appointed to prepare Epistles to those  
Meetings from which we have now received them. Mary Williams  
& Lydia Rotch are desired to prepare endorsements for the minutes  
of our friends Sarah & Mary Hull. This meeting adjourns to the  
fourth hour to morrow afternoon. Not agreeable to adjournment  
the representatives present that first attended except one prevented  
by indisposition. The friends appointed have produced a Summary  
which is as follows. It appears that Meetings for Worship & Discipline  
have been attended (except a few instances in stormy weather) those  
on first days by the greater part of friends, Midweek & those for Disci-  
pline more neglected, some labour bestowed, where any breach in  
the other parts of the Query hath occurred, care hath been extended.  
A good degree of Love & Unity is maintained among friends, and a care to  
guard against detraction & end differences where they have arisen. -  
Many Parents & heads of families are endeavoring to Educate those  
under their care in plainness, & to be exemplary themselves, yet sorrowful  
deviation from the simplicity of our profession is apparent in many  
of our Youth. The Holy Scriptures frequently read in friends families.  
Some fears are expressed in the several particulars of the fourth  
query, which hath engaged the attention of friends. - A very general  
care is manifested in regard to the poor. Parents & heads of families  
mostly careful that all proceedings respecting Marriage be conform-  
able to Discipline. Several instances of disorderly company keeping

which



which are under notice. No deficiency appears in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Queries. 37

Not quite clear as to records and Certificates, care is taken. A general care is express'd for the regular dealing with offenders and to place judgment agreeable to Discipline. — An Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women friends in Philadelphia has been read, approv'd & sign'd.

The London printed Epistle of last Year, containing weighty counsel hath been read with trust to edification. We adjourn to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow Morning. — Fourth day met according to adjournment, the Representatives present. Epistles being prepared to the Yearly Meetings of London & New York, they were read, approv'd, & sign'd. —

Endorsements on the minutes of our beloved friends Sarah & Mary Hull have been read & sign'd whose company has been grateful & their religious exercise acceptably manifested amongst us. —

Having been favour'd with a comfortable degree of solemnity during most of our sittings, we desire to conclude under the serious impressions made upon our minds, intending to meet again (if permitted) at the usual time & place next Year. — — — — —

Sign'd in & on behalf of said Meeting by Lydia Rotch Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive

1810

To the Yearly Meeting of Women friends to be held in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

We humbly trust that it is under a sense of the fresh extendings of the heavenly Father's love at this season, that a remnant are moved to supplicate on their own behalf, and that of others, that Zion may not arise, shake herself from the dust of the Earth, & put on her beautiful garments, that in her may

arise



arise Judges as at the first, and Counsellors as at the beginning:  
believing it to be the gracious design of the most High, that his  
Church may yet become the praise of the whole Earth.

Therefore may we be willing dear friends to pursue the only  
means that can accomplish this desirable end, by endeavoring  
individually to have our minds centred to that pure principle of  
light within, that can alone qualify for any good word or work:  
and as love is a principal ingredient & qualification for happiness  
may it be our primary concern to promote its prevalence. Love  
adapts the soul to the beauty and character of its Divine Author,  
and fits it to enjoy his genial light. The true followers of Christ  
know this from experience, and when under the sweetening in-  
fluence of this power, are strengthened to participate in each  
others tribulations & joys, bear each others burdens, & reciprocate  
the sweetest refreshments at times the least expected; as there are  
diversities of Gifts, but the same spirit, difference of administration  
but the same Lord, working all in all to effect the same spiritual  
ends, let us diligently occupy that which is committed to our  
care, that it may prosper in all things to our final justification.

On reading your acceptable Epistle of 4<sup>th</sup> month last some  
of our hearts were afresh touched with a sense of gratitude to  
him who became poor, that we through his poverty might become  
rich.

Signed in & on behalf of Said Meeting

Lydia Potch. Clerk



From our yearly Meeting of Women friends held on Rhode Island  
and by adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive  
1840

To the next yearly Meeting of Women friends held in New York  
Dear Friends

We have at this time been led to acknowledge  
it a privilege to be favored with lively epistolary communications  
from distant branches of the great family; evincing a tender solicitude  
that the compact may be strengthened, & many more gathered, by yield-  
ing obedience to the 'monitions of Grace'; Although discouragements may  
arise as on the right hand & on the left, yet being instructed by a degree  
of experience, & many declarations in Holy Writ of the efficacy of Faith  
in Him who never said to the house of Israel "seek ye me in vain"  
and seeing the means are so amply furnished of becoming his by  
adoption, whose we are by creation, let us be "instant in prayer see-  
king the Lord" - With satisfaction we observe the concern  
manifested by you, for the several descriptions of society & hope  
the pertinent counsel addressed to these, may, in circulating to our  
distant Meetings, serve the valuable purpose, of encouraging the  
well disposed, & animating the indifferent, to seek after a qualification  
to fill their allotted stations with propriety. For we have no doubt  
but there are many in solitary situations remote from the advan-  
tages of social & religious intercourse who will gladly receive  
the word of exhortation & sisterly solicitude: That we wish all may  
be willing, both with you & us, to occupy the Talents received, that we  
may be enabled, to render an account of our Stewardship, that shall  
meet

meet with Divine acceptance.

In the renewings of Gospel love we continue  
Your affectionate friends.

I signed in & on behalf of said Meeting

Lydia Rotch. - Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held on Rhode Island for New England by all  
journeys from the 11<sup>th</sup> of June to the 13 of the same in-  
clusive 1810

To the Yearly Meeting of Women  
Friends held in London.

Dear Friends

Being convinced of the animating  
influence of that love which flows from the foun-  
tain of purity, we desire to appreciate the least sen-  
sibility of its circulation; and that an individual  
engagement may prevail, to seek after an acquaint-  
ance with its strengthening effects, that if permitted  
to experience a gradual arising from death unto  
life, our thus religiously assembling may be produc-  
tive of present edification and lasting benefit.  
For we believe that these seasons have often proved  
to the attentive mind, like repairing to Bethel  
to offer sacrifice for past favors, and very appro-  
priate for the renewal of our covenants with the



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Shepherd of Israel. May all those both with you and us who have enlisted under his Banner, willingly receive the intimations of truth, and with holy magnanimity press through the obstructions which arise from human suggestions, and when indulged may frustrate the accomplishment of the divine will; remembering the declaration "greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

The reading of your acceptable Epistle hath administered instruction, and we hope a degree of edification to many minds, who desire to become the companions of the living exercise, altho' it may lead them into a tribulation path, & under a solemn view of the high profession we make, may often raise the inquiry who is sufficient for these things? It is of great importance that the faith of these should be confirmed and increased in that preserving power who said "Ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full."

We do not feel a qualification to speak much of good things, altho' we believe there are such in store for those who love the appearing of our Lord. But may acknowledge that we have been sensible of that solemnity at this time which hath been comfortable and encouraging. We conclude your affectionate friends

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting

Lydia Rotch Clerk.





acceptably with us, have presented copies of themselves, and the respective meeting to which they belong uniting with their fervent religious engagement, which has been read.

Letters are received from our Quarterly Meetings (except one) which have been read, and we are informed by that of Cal. South that they have appointed Chas. Webb to the station of an Elder, & frame with him that they have approved of his public appearance in the Ministry of Rogers Thompson. —

A high testimony has been received & acceptably read from the Monthly Meeting of Worcester held the 31<sup>st</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> month last concerning our beloved friend Mary Mitchell manifesting the peace of her life & her peaceful close! —

We have received Epistles from the Quarterly Meetings of Friends of Philadelphia & New York held in the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> months of the present year, which have been read to our satisfaction & encouragement. —

We adjourn to the 10<sup>th</sup> to have this afternoon. —

Not agreeable to adjournment. — The representatives being called are present who first attend, agreeable to the direction of the Yearly Meeting then from whom have proposed business nearly comprising the state of their Meetings, which are acceptably answered with the other answers as usual. Resolutions proposed & carried both by ballot. Mary Randalls, Mary Ambler, Mary Williams, & Hannah Jacobs are appointed to prepare Epistles to their Yearly Meetings from which we have received them. — 2<sup>nd</sup> Patience Carl, Anna Anthony & Susan Haden are requested to do, have a summary, & bring to a future sitting.

Instructional administration has been timely communicated  
to the younger class now assembled on the subject of their  
department, & they have been encouraged as to shall have  
an impression of the benefit which may arise from a  
regular attendance of those meetings is perfectly to value  
the privilege we enjoy, which many are about <sup>would</sup> doubt  
less highly prize such an opportunity of improving them-  
selves & renewing their spiritual strength. —

Mary Peto & Sarah Peto, Hannah Peto, & Sarah Peto  
are appointed to be our underwriters for the certificates of  
the friends who are sent from other weekly meetings. —

This meeting adjourns to the 5th hour to morrow afternoon.

Third day met agreeable to adjournment. The  
representatives present. A summary being presented  
was read & approved and is as follows. —

Although there is a manifest deficiency appear-  
ing in some friends in the attendance, particularly of women's  
meetings; yet it appears that there are in each meeting a  
considerable number rightly engaged & duly to attend, & to listen  
with becoming respect when assembled, and to extend a welcome  
to those who may have been visiting herein. Love & unity  
are in a good degree maintained in each meeting, yet not  
sufficiently to overcome the evils of dissension, from  
which differences in some instances have appeared, & measures  
have been used to end them. — Some friends appear concerned



to bring up these under their direction in plainness, & duty to restrain  
them, and necessary, they themselves, whilst others it is to be  
feared do not sufficiently feel its necessity or enforce its impor-  
tance on the minds of their children, the reading of the holy  
scriptures generally attended to our friends families. —

One instance of the unnecessary use of Spirituous liquors  
a church disqualification of frequenting places of public  
resort, in which account labour hath been bestowed. —

The circumstances of the year are generally respected and  
well observed, their children have taken of learning, & now are  
placed some amongst friends. — It appears that most friends  
are concerned that all proceeding with regard to marriage  
be conformable to discipline, although some of the young &  
unmarried are not careful to maintain revolutionary behavior  
to avoid the censured consequences of a breach of order on  
these respects. Nothing appears but that our testimony has  
been maintained as respects the seventh query. Some  
fear of a deficiency with regard to the eighth. Some may  
act in recording. Some instances of friends removing  
without certification but care is to be on that account. —

It appears that friends are concerned carefully to deal  
with offenders in the manner prescribed (though not with-  
out some delay) and to place judgment where necessary ac-  
cording to Discipline.

An Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of New York friends  
held at New York was read, approved and signed. —

Those who are careful to promote the reading of the holy  
scriptures in their families have been frequently mentioned



to persevere in the excellent practice, from a belief <sup>that</sup> it hath  
proved a great advantage to many, and that a daily atten-  
tion thereto, so far from interfering with the outward affairs  
of life, would have a tendency to increase our blessings. We  
therefore with indaunting that friends may be excited to a more  
general concern on this account: —

A Testimony from the Monthly Meeting of Sandwich  
for their brethren & sisters held the 30<sup>th</sup> of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1810 on  
behalf of our beloved Friend Mary Mitchell, a profession  
of her religious life & happy end, hath been read to our  
satisfaction & instruction: —

The Society printed Epistle of the last year containing  
mighty counsel hath been read with edification.

This meeting adjourns to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour to morrow morn-  
ing. — Fourth day met according to adjournment.

An Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of American Friends held  
in Philadelphia hath been read approved & signed.

We are informed from the same meeting that they have  
voted with a proposal from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting  
to alter the time of holding it to the first fifth day in the  
Second, Third, Fourth, & Tenth months, which hath  
our concurrence: —

A caution hath been mightily expressed at this time  
against the habit of visiting on the first day of the week from  
an apprehension that life is thereby frequently sustained &  
severe impressions of affliction which are received in attending our  
religious meetings. This consideration hath made a deep  
impression on all our Members that we may carefully shun & avoid.



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constantly & strenuously & mercifully received, that we may profit  
thereby & thus be more fully engaged to guard against the formation  
of improper associations, & to promote the establishment  
of that one which is consistent with the spirituality of our  
professions.

This meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon.

Not agreeable to a adjournment. —

The representatives being called are present. — The friends  
appointed have prepared and presented which were approved,  
inserted in the minutes of the Records which are sent us from  
neighboring yearly Meetings & signed by the Clerk of both  
Meetings. These long & elegant volumes have been  
acceptable, & we hope may prove animating to many minds.

Our several sittings have been attended with a comfortable  
solemnity, and many portions of salutary counsel imparted  
under an evident concern for our advancement in the way  
of righteousness; We desire to conclude with an humble acknow-  
ledgment of continued success, but being permitted to meet  
again at the usual time & place next year. —

The Clerk is directed to make a few extracts from  
these minutes & forward with the transcripts of Epistles  
received, to our several quarterly Meetings.

Signed — & on behalf of the Meetings

Lysa B. B. B.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode  
Island for New England from the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 19<sup>th</sup>  
of the same inclusive 1835.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women friends to be held in  
New York

Beloved Sisters

In thus replying to your acceptable  
Epistle of 5<sup>th</sup> month last, we impressively feel the total insuffi-  
ciency of any thing short of that qualification which can only  
be obtained by a renunciation of all dependence on ourselves &  
a simple reliance on Him who is the alone helper, whose spirit  
alone we are led to crave, that in thus communing together we may  
be favoured mutually to refresh our "strength to be made perfect  
in weakness" by an humble attention to the printings of His holy finger  
and that whether we are engaged in an arduous or an arduous work  
other to follow on to him the Lord and to walk in obedience to his will,  
or in the more limited though indispensable work of the purifi-  
cation of our own hearts, we may know self so reduced in us as  
to acknowledge indeed that we have no might of our own.

The tender interest which so often pervades our hearts is abun-  
dantly prevalent at this time, that the precious children of the  
family may be preserved from every thing which would have a  
tendency to alienate them from due attention to the gentle mani-  
festations of love in their hearts, and earnest young friends may  
be preserved open to accept the offers of unutterable love in the  
morning of your life is the aspiration of our spirits to the Father of  
mercies



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is knocking  
at the door, and pleading for  
admission; we therefore entreat you not to reject the heavenly vis-  
itant, neither defer till a more convenient season the concerns of  
your immortal souls, we call upon you in the powerful language  
of universal Gospel love, to choose the Lord for your portion who will  
never leave you, nor forsake you, for although many are the baptis-  
ms which are necessary for our sanctification, and painful the  
trials we may have to partake of, yet some of us can, joyfully testi-  
fy, that by patience & resignation the mind may be supported until  
his gracious purgative fire affects in us, then will he lead us beside  
the still waters, and cause us to repose in the green pastures of life;  
and this peace which is the reward of suffering & of obedience, is that which  
perfects all understanding. — — — — — To those in the meridian of life  
we would say, now is the time for labour, he who hath cared for  
you thus far, is both able & willing to continue his assistance; be  
diligent in the discharge of the various services which a sense of  
duty enjoins, that those who are looking for examples may not have  
cause of halting, but by faithfully showing them that you are concern-  
ed above all things to run with decency the race that is set before  
us, omitting no part however small of the work assigned. — — —

May we dear friends of every age & sex with you & us, so run as to  
obtain an entrance into that City which hath foundations, whose  
Builder & maker is God. — — — — —

We have had the company of our beloved friend Susanna Horn  
from Great Britain, & divers endeared sisters from neighboring yearly  
Meetings whose religious engagement amongst us hath been truly  
acceptable & encouraging.

I signed in & on behalf of said meetings.

Lydia Hatch, Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
on Rhode Island from the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 19<sup>th</sup> of  
the same inclusive 1835.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends  
held in Philadelphia

Dear Sisters

We feel our minds urged to address you, we  
trust under the prevalence of that love, which unites in the  
fellowship of the Gospel of Christ; and is so diffusive in its  
influence, that even bonds cannot obstruct its circulation when  
that all quenching power is felt, which still speaketh as  
it speaketh in the beginning. "Let there be light." When our  
hearts are made livingly sensible of this Divine Operation,  
we are thereby enabled to bow in humble & grateful acknowledgment  
before the Majesty of Heaven & Earth, who seems to be  
thus gracious to his creature Man: But how many flinch  
when the prospect is changed, & we behold only the dry bones of the  
Valley. I have however it is by abiding the various & manifold  
operations of the progressive work of sanctification, that we can  
know a spiritual growth, and a perseverance to follow  
our holy Leader, who will give us to partake of refreshment  
in the M. Bernice, and open for us springs in the desert; let  
us not be in haste to inquire, when the Kingdom shall be  
said to Israel, but wait patiently the appointed season for  
the disclosure of his will concerning us. And can we not  
testify that in proportion to our dedication & surrender of  
all



all things we have been favored to partake of the fruits of  
the spirit & May we then be animated to persevere in our  
fidelity to the injunction of the Apostle, "Let every man prove  
his own work, & then shall he have rejoicing in himself."

In thus retracing the early & continued dealings of that  
Holy Ghost which emanated light from darkness & caused  
the early dawn to advance to meridian brightness. We  
feel the solicitude which it naturally inspires for the be-  
loved youth, that they may be so wrought upon in the ear-  
ly of life, as to embrace its salutary influence, and know  
its gradual unfoldings to the perfect day, coming up in  
their ranks as fellow helpers in the good work, & be enabled  
thereby to stand steadfast in the faith, and in the liberty wherewith  
Christ will save them free. Be encouraged dear  
young sisters, by the language of the Church, which we  
all eyes hath spoken the same thing, and be assured that there  
is but one foundation which will remain firm in the day  
of trial, that shall come upon all flesh. & be willing to  
believe that all the dispensations of the many dispensations  
lead to the one great purpose of effectual redemption.

Let us be vigilant, beloved older sister. "Ye that are sealed  
with that Holy Spirit of promise, that having tasted of  
the good word of life, & the power of the world to come, we  
may write in the ark of the covenant, 'not unto us O Lord  
but unto thee belongeth glory & honor.'"

We with satisfaction acknowledge the receipt  
of your acceptable Epistle of 4<sup>th</sup> inst last, which has been  
gratified to our feelings, and we desire the continuance  
of



of your sisterly sympathy & concern, which we believe  
have a tendency to strengthen the right-minded among us.

We have had the company of our beloved friend  
Susanne Hoare from Great Britain, & several  
valued sisters from neighboring yearly Meetings,  
whose religious engagements amongst us have been  
truly acceptable & encouraging. —

Signed by the direction & on behalf of said  
Meeting by Lydia Rotch, Clerk

At a yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at  
Newport on Rhode Island the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1812.

The representatives for Rhode Island are,  
Sarah Fowler, Ann Smith, Abigail Sherman, &  
Sarah Greene. For Salem: Betsey Purington, Hannah  
Collins, & Lydia Dean. For Sandwich Mary Ware, Ruth  
Davis, Elizabeth Hitchell, Mrs. Hene, Letitia Smith  
Sarah Hupcy & Patience Howland, For Taunton  
Hannah Mear, Phoebe Cobb, & Mary Winslow, for  
Smithfield Elizabeth Smith, Rachel Babst, Lydia Fry  
& Sarah Snow, present except Elizabeth Mitchel who is  
prevented by indisposition. —

Acceptable Epistles from the yearly Meetings of Women  
Friends held in London, Philadelphia & New York have  
been



been received & the reading of them at this time has been a  
 comfort to many minds. The <sup>subject of</sup> ~~admission~~ <sup>admission</sup> in  
 return being considered. Mrs. Ketch, Mary Grist, Sarah Sizer,  
 Phebe Percival, Ann Adams, Ruth Rodman, Miss Boone,  
 Lydia Fry, Mary Williams, Elizabeth Rodman, & Lydia Hunt  
 are appointed to prepare Epistles & produce at a future  
 sitting. - Our esteemed friend, Ann Willis being acceptably with  
 us, presented a copy of a minute from the Monthly meeting of  
 Jerico on Long Island held the 21<sup>st</sup> of 1812, in presence of Union  
 with her as a minister & with her present visit.

This meeting adjourns to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Not agreeable to adjourn next. - The Representatives  
 have proposed Lydia Deane for Clerk & Hannah Collins assistant  
 which is united with, and they are accordingly appointed.

Accounts are received from our several Quarterly Meetings which  
 with the Queries & Answers have been read; Hannah Collins,  
 & Dorcas Brown, & Betsy Purington are appointed to prepare a  
 summary & bring to a future sitting. - While we commend  
 in our later Meetings a disposition to give an honest account  
 of their state; we observe with sorrow that it does not inform  
 of that constant attention to important duties which would  
 contribute to our ~~own~~ individual & general welfare. This  
 acknowledgement of deficiency in various respects hath  
 raised a desire that we might be able to convey to every distant  
 member, some knowledge of the depth of that solicitude which  
 hath been felt at this time for an increase of religious concern.

As we may rank among the first of these duties the perfor-  
 mance of spiritual worship, we would that it were possible to

communicates a just view of our belief in its salutary effects, &  
the solicitude we feel that the whole family may be strengthened  
and united by regularly assembling at the places appointed  
for our public acts of devotion with minds prepared to receive  
instruction: if our own souls are properly subjected we believe  
that the Divine power will be manifested amongst us, and  
we shall often have to rejoice in His presence who commands  
a blessing to descend upon the poor in spirit & the pure in  
heart. — It is our joy to partake of this holy communion & desires  
hath spread  
amongst us at this time, that a disposition to sin & rightly,  
one of a nature may be <sup>entirely</sup> caltroped & overcome, that cause of dis-  
union may not stand recorded from year to year amongst a  
rightly professing people. — The clerk is requested to prepare  
an endorsement for the minutes produced by our friend Anne  
Willis. — This meeting adjourns to the fourth hour tomorrow  
afternoon. — Third day met according to adjournment.

An Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women friends held  
in Philadelphia hath been read approved & signed.

The friends appointed have prepared a summary which  
is as follows.

It appears by the answers from the several Yearly  
Meetings, that all our Meetings have been generally  
attended by the greater part of our Members, except a few occa-  
sioned by stormy weather, yet a deficiency is apparent in  
some, on which account some care has been taken, the have  
generally observed, friends generally preserved from sleeping &  
other unbecoming behaviour. Love and unity are in a good  
degree maintained, yet all are not so prepared as sufficiently



to guard against detraction, on which account are less  
extensive, and also to end differences when they have arisen.

There are some in each meeting concerned to Educate those  
under their direction agreeably to what is queried after, endeavour-  
ing to be examples themselves, yet others are delinquent herein.

The holy scriptures are read in friendly families.

Generally careful in the several particulars of the fourth Query.

The circumstances of the poor generally attended to.

Several instances of keeping company, & marrying out of the  
order of friends, for which care has been taken.

Mostly careful in regard to the eighth Query. — some  
diligency in recording, & also in certificates. There appear  
to be a general care to deal with offenders, & to place judgment  
when necessary according to discipline.

The London printed Epistle of the last <sup>year</sup> containing much  
weighty counsel hath been read with hope to edification.

An encouragement <sup>is</sup> prepared for our beloved Friend Anne Watts  
expressing that her company & Gospel labours amongst us have  
been truly acceptable.

It is with much concern that we observe the frequent  
complaint of keeping company, & marrying in a manner incon-  
sistent with our established order; and those <sup>who</sup> are yet preserved from  
this deviation have been tenderly entreated to guard against suf-  
fering themselves to be drawn into an error which hath often  
involved the minds of the incautious in serious difficulties. as  
means of maintaining this guard, Parents & other friends have  
been recommended to cultivate that tenderness towards the dear  
children which may inspire confidence, & render it easy and

availing to impart suitable counsel on this important subject,  
that no case may be wanting for the preservation of those, on  
whom, we must ere long depend for the support of our  
precious testimonies. — A tender concern has been felt  
at this time for those who dwell in remote situations, & who  
have not the means of enjoying the privilege we are favoured  
with of attending our annual solemnities, which has led to  
expressions of near sympathy for them; with desires that they  
may endeavor so to dwell in ~~the~~ patience, as that true resignation  
may be witnessed under every trial that an All-wise Being may  
see meet to dispense, firmly believing, that as this becomes their  
chief concern, it will ultimately land them in that desirable  
situation which is inaccessible to sorrow. —

We conclude to meet at the same hour to-morrow, to which  
our men friends may adjourn. —

Thursday next near the 10<sup>th</sup> hour. Pistols to the dear  
sisters of Women friends in London & New York have been  
read aloud & signed. — We feel desirous of stimulating  
the active members of Society to a more early care in dealing  
with offenders, & that it be under the influence of that love which  
will leave an agreeable impression on their minds, & convince  
them that the object of all such labours is to draw them into  
a nearer union with the Church, that if possible they may  
be restored & the faithful comforted by a general engagement  
of heart to know the work of sanctification to be not only begun  
but carried forward to our final redemption. —

We adjourn to the fourth hour this afternoon. —



Met according to adjournment. The representatives being again called are present. — The Clerk is directed to extract such remarks, & advices as have been placed on the minutes & forward with transcripts of the Epistles we have received, to our Quarterly Meetings. — A Certificate directed to the Monthly Meeting of Totton <sup>in great Britain</sup> on behalf of our friend Susanna Horn has been read approved & signed by the Clerks of both Meetings. — We are informed that Sandwich Quarterly Meeting has united with Pembroke Monthly Meeting in approving their Ministry of Avis Keene. —

During our several sittings we have been sensible of a portion of that solemnity which is the crown of our religious gatherings, and with a grateful acknowledgment of favours received, we conclude, to meet again if permitted at the usual time & place next year. —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting  
Lydia Dean. Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo inclusive 1812  
To the Yearly Meeting of Women friends held in Philadelphia.

Beloved Friends,

We are aware that a qualification proportionably to our solemnities must be derived from Him in whom we doubt not the channel of Epistolary intercourse was primarily opened & who still mercifully continues to aid those who in a reliance on his never failing power, endeavor to relinquish all strength of their own, & simply depend on Him.

Believing



believing that by thus waiting for the sweet savour of that life which is hid with Christ, and which alone should influence the mind in communications of this kind, it will be more ready to us, & render them instrumental in pointing to that inexhaustible source from whence the righteous in all ages have received their strength, by the spiritual bread & water, which nourisheth the soul, & causeth it to utter this language. Great & Marvelous are thy works - just & true are all thy ways, O Lord, & thy

We have in the present gathering the company of a large number of our beloved young sisters, many of whom we believe are desirous of assisting in the labors of the family. To those among you and us, we would say, dear children, persevere and let not the opposition or indifference of some who are further advanced, have a discouraging tendency, for be sure that the morning of life devoted to the service of your heavenly parent, will, as continued in, be the means of procuring to you comfort through the meridian & peace & serenity in the evening of your day; As we doubt not, but all have at times felt the visitations of Divine love reproving for evil, & sometimes replenishing your minds, with that peace which far surpasses all that the world can give, we are engaged to recommend and encourage an attentive watchful waiting upon these precious visitations, though you should sensibly feel the reproach of instruction, though sorrow & heaviness of spirit should at times be your portion, though singularity & even reproach be attached to you, yet be encouraged to persevere towards the mark of the prize of the high calling, and endeavor to receive the portion dispensed notwithstanding the infusion of bitter <sup>that</sup> may be therein as in the cup that my Father hath given me, shall I not drink?



From experience we are induced to believe that frequent communion from the busy scenes of life, proves a means of increasing & strengthening the good endeavours of all, remembering the example of our Saviour while on earth who often retired alone to pray; and unless the mind is clothed with that humility, purity & dependence of spirit which craves the help, we cannot experience our souls to rest in safety, or embrace & feel ourselves established on that ever-dominant wave which can make us afloat; may we then oftener than the returning light commune with ourselves & be still, for they who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they will not lose the precious anointing emanations of celestial love, which warm, purify, and enrich the heart. — With desires for the spiritual increase & establishment in the truth of every clasp we bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed on behalf of said Meeting

Judith Dan, Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of November inclusive 1812  
To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York

Dear Sisters

At the receipt of your acceptable salutation we were ready to say rejoice in more the increasing faith in that He, in whose hand is all good, is not only pleased to dispense a share of it to us in the several sittings of our Yearly Meeting, but hath also given you a willing mind to promote the prosperity

of Zion; may you continue to prefer her cause to your chiefest joy, not only in your attention to the civilization of the nation but in your endeavours to contribute to the proper tuition of the ~~after~~ succeeding generation, on that much of our future hope depends. We are induced to say go on & prosper!" hoping you may feel a concern proportionate to the importance of the cause, to pursue the laudable engagement of giving your children useful literary qualifications; above all endeavouring both in families & schools, to train them up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." And may it be our united care, to acquire such teachers as are conscientiously concerned to guard the canon, & give a proper bias to the minds of the dear children; to teach them that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, & to depart from iniquity, that is understanding, ~~an~~ understanding, which will teach our beloved Young Sisters to select those books, the perusal of which, will have a tendency to strengthen the pious resolutions which they are sometimes favoured to make. --

We trust that with you & our sister, we feel an increasing concern for the promotion of School, & we hope, that in time, it may amount to an establishment of more general utility, than we have yet been able to attain.

We are persuaded, that in a collective as well as in an individual capacity, our growth, establishment & right qualification to address one another, depends on our dwelling near the pure spring from whence the bubbling up of the waters of life are sometimes renewedly experienced, to revive the drooping spirit, & so spread its healing & refreshing influence through the valley, as to lead us to acknowledge, that from a small stream issuing from the throne, it is felt to increase in depth, like the river which



"which went down into the sea & healed the sea & the fishes."

We may acknowledge with a degree of thankfulness that some of our minds have renewedly experienced that there is access still to the tree "whose fruit is meat, & whose leaves are for the healing of the nations" it concern has been felt by some, that the beloved Mother would labour to acquire that wisdom, which dwelling with Providence, qualifies them to be patterns of humility, meekness, & self-denial, & to promote peace, order & confidence in their families. — It is at this time the mighty concern of many of our endeared sisters, that all the young & unmarried may be cautious what connections they enter into for life; & we earnestly recommend to them, that <sup>before</sup> they suffer their minds to be entangled there may be a careful & watchful waiting at Wisdom's gate and we have confidence to believe that thereby their choice will be rightly directed.

Feeling desirous that we may not exceed the proper limits we conclude under the impression of gratitude for the many favours which are still mercifully dispensed to us and are your friends & sisters. —

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting

Lydia Dean Clark

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month inclusive 1812

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London.

Beloved sisters

The reading of your Valued Epistle of last year hath administered comfort to many in this our annual gathering.

A precious increase in those feelings which unite in the fellowship of the Gospel the inhabitants of distant Nations, and which give ability

to sympathize with the separated branches of the great family. a  
privilege some of our minds are peculiarly disposed to estimate at the  
present crisis, when thick clouds seem to be gathering around, involv-  
ing us in painful uncertainty as to the position of public distress,  
or private affliction, which we may be permitted to suffer.

May we continue to feel this uniting influence, & remembering  
the declaration that not a sparrow falls to the ground without Divine  
notice, endeavour to press to our souls in patience, and in an humble  
dependence on Him who is the refuge of the Righteous.

The unlearned part of society have been deeply exercised on  
various accounts, under a conviction of the necessity of repeated baptisms  
as an indispensable qualification for every service in the Church,  
and we are very desirous that many more may yield to the  
operations of Divine Grace, & become co workers in the Lord's Vineyard,  
fully adopting the belief that he is not an idle Master, but tender and  
compassionate to his creature man, listening to the secret breathing of the  
sinner's heart; and ever ready to assist those, whose Godly resolutions  
are to seek an inheritance among the blessed. —

Your impressive remarks, on the great responsibility of those  
who are entrusted with the care of youth, have revived in the minds  
of many a divine that so important a duty, may not appear to an  
individual as a light thing, but that we may with increasing concern  
seek for a qualification to discharge it faithfully.

We rejoice in your hope, for a prospect of a succession of testimony  
bearers among the younger Members of society, & earnestly wish that  
those of this description within our borders may derive additional en-  
couragement & strength, believing there are a number who are prepar-  
ing to future usefulness, & for whom we feel that deep solicitude  
which it would be difficult for language to convey.

We have been favoured on the present occasion with a vision of  
good from the great head of the Church, under a grateful sense whereof  
the enquiry hath arisen "what shall we render for all thy benefits?"  
and



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and more into them that is able to do exceeding abundantly, above all  
that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" we  
are to commend you, with ourselves, unto Conclude!

Your affectionate Friends

Signed in aid on behalf of the Meeting

Lucia Dian. Clark

A Quarterly Meeting of Women Friends held Newport  
on Rhode Island the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1813.

It is usually to the conclusion of last year and after a  
season of active retirement prepared to business.

The Representatives for Rhode Island are Hannah  
Dennis Sarah Collins Representative for Lucia Bicks.  
For Providence Ruth Davis Mary Cowdrey Sarah Wood  
Elizabeth Parker Lucia Hussey Sarah Souther. For Sa-  
lem Abigail Danc, Hannah Collins, Alice Chase An-  
na A. Hinckell. For Portsmouth Hannah Elphinstone  
Emmie Boyce, Esther Jones. For Southfield Alice  
Rathbone Hannah Brooks Hannah Holmes Debo-  
rah Mowry. They being called are present except your  
who have forwarded their reasons of absence, which are  
accepted.

Our friends Elizabeth Coggeshall and Ann Shipley have  
and previous to our meeting from the Monthly Meeting of  
New York held the 2nd of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1813: expressive of unity  
with this meeting and to our visit. Coming of Miss Eliza  
Bathorough monthly meeting in Vermont on behalf of our  
friend Handful Betty and Mary Hanson have also been  
sent to our company acceptable to us.

The Records with the Accounts &c. &c. were  
received at this time from our Quarterly Meeting have been  
read: And in having an opportunity to take a general view of the  
state of things we are at once encouraged & comforted from  
the prospect that there is a considerable number who are increasing

in religious concern. We would gladly hope that this may be  
the case in such meetings; and desire that these may find  
themselves strengthened in every good word & work, by con-  
tinued faithful hope. Believing that a steady perseverance in  
well-doing will unite others by the power of the example of  
good example to come forward, & unite in a lively engage-  
ment of mind for the promotion of the cause of Righteousness.

To make the attention of each of our Members to the  
duties of Christian Duty, we would earnestly hold  
up to view, that for every act of obedience there is a reward;  
and who among us does not feel that the hope of reward sweet-  
ens labour? This being true, why are we not all diligent,  
all engaged for ourselves? Do we expect that a Brother, a Sister,  
or a friend can do the work of sanctification for us, or that  
their vigilance and intercession will redeem our Souls?

We feel the necessity of pressing these enquiries upon every  
one that hath heretofore been careless of the precious gift  
of time; not considering, that when one hour is withdrawn, we  
have no promise of another, nor do we know what a day may  
bring forth, but are entirely dependent on Him, who uphold-  
eth all things by the word of His Power.

Let us have a sense of the great value of this gift, that  
none may continue indifferent respecting the support & due  
use of it. Let us be diligent in our meetings, for if we are  
thus deficient must lose the enriching enjoyment of His  
Presence who hath declared, where two, or three, are gathered in  
His Name, there will he be, in the midst of them; and  
who hath also said, "He that taketh not his cross, & followeth  
after me is not worthy of me". Are any of us willing to  
be rejected, as not entitled to a place amongst those who are spir-  
itual worshippers? Is there not rather, an evident choice  
arising with each of us, to be found worthy of access to those  
refreshing streams which can fertilize the most unfruitful  
mind? Let us all desire to be carefully chosen, until it be



hindler into real emotion, & we become supplicants at the great  
 school of Divine Mercy; then may we pour forth the acknow-  
 ledgment of our former weaknesses & increase of strength  
 to know an overcoming.

We are deeply exercis'd on account of the outgoings in  
 marriage amongst our youth who are thereby prepar'd  
 & for their rising families  
 for themselves & with best wishes & many difficulties. Knowing  
 this to have been the unhappy experience of some we  
 feel desirous that those who are yet free from such entangle-  
 ments may carefully guard their affections, & by no means  
 suffer them to be fix'd on improper objects but be concern'd  
 to ask for true Wisdom right to direct in forming these  
 important connections. If this be their endeavour, we be-  
 lieve they will attain to a clear evidence herein, & as it be-  
 comes their watchful engagement to continue in a humble  
 trusting posture in the Lord that leads to heaven they  
 will find the supporting arm of Divine Power to be near  
 for their comfort & preservation when temptations may beset  
 & deep trials assail them.

We have been renew'dly encourag'd to the daily practice  
 of perusing the Holy Scriptures, and we feel a confidence  
 that it will greatly tend to the edification of our  
 Families.

We are not unmindful of the many feelingly ex-  
 -ercis'd members, who are not outwardly gather'd with us;  
 some perhaps frequently circumstanc'd with the cares of this  
 life, who feel them at seasons, to be a burthen, from which  
 they would gladly be more exempt. Others in low & solita-  
 -re situations, waiting after substantial good. We would

that all such might find their spirits deepening in the  
root of Divine Life, & be enabled more, & more, to draw  
water out of the Well of Salvation.

To those who are often sensible of great inward power, &  
& are ready at times to exclaim "Who will shew us, any  
good?" we would address a word of exhortation, that  
they do not suffer their minds to sink into unprofitable  
reflections upon their state of strippedness, but rather  
be encourag'd to believe, that it is permitted for the  
load of their faith: and to such let us use the words  
of the Psalmist "Offer the sacrifices of righteousness,  
& put your trust in the Lord."

We are inform'd that in Rhode Island Quarterly  
Meeting, Sarah Hazard & Mary Spencer are appointed  
to the station of Elders: from I. State that they have  
approved the ministry of Hannah Purinton & appointed  
Hannah Collins & Ruth Corone to the station of  
Elders from Smithfield that Hannah Collins is  
appointed to that station.

Abigail Arnold, Elizabeth Gardner & Hannah Gaudin  
are requested to prepare a summary, & bring it to a  
future sitting. This Meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour  
this afternoon. Met agreeably to adjournment was  
the fourth hour. The representatives have proposed  
Lydia L. can for Clerk & Hannah Collins assistant,  
which being united with, they are accordingly appointed.

We have received an encouraging Epistle from the Yearly  
Meeting of Women's Friends held in London in the



5<sup>th</sup> month 1812 which not being according to usual course, this  
 of our minds. Also one from Philadelphia & one from  
 New York, of the present year: Each containing pertinent  
 remarks & counsel, have been acceptably read among us.  
 The subject of addressing them in return being considered,  
 we appointed Lydia White, Dorcas Brown, Mary Miller,  
 Anne, Elizabeth, Hannah, & Sarah, Betty  
 Sumner, Anna, Mary, Hannah, & Susan, Hannah  
 Gould, Mary Allen & Mary Hancock to that service.

A proposition being receiv'd from Halmouth Quaker  
 Meeting for the establishment of a new Quaker  
 Meeting at Haverborough to consist of the monthly meet-  
 ings of Haverborough, Haverham, & Litcham, we appointed  
 Sarah Brown & Elizabeth Hancock, Hannah Collins,  
 Elizabeth Dams, Susanna Thompson, Sarah, Rachel,  
 Lois Keene & Sarah Fowler to unite with a committee  
 of their friends in considering the subject to report at a  
 future sitting.

The London printed Epistle of the fifth  
 month last year hath been read, we hope, to edification  
 & comfort; the counsel therein being truly  
 worthy of our solid attention.

We adjourn to the same hour tomorrow, at which  
 our Men friends may conclude to meet.

Thurs day afternoon: Not near the third hour.  
 A summary hath been prepar'd, which is as follows.  
 There appears to be a considerable number in each meeting  
 who are engag'd for the due attendance of all our Meetings

tho' there are many deficiencies, particularly in attending after-noon and mid-week meetings. The town nearly observed & friends generally prevented from sleeping & other indiscreet behavior when assembled.

A good degree of Love & Unity subsists among friends generally; tho' fears are express'd, that they are not so fully maintain'd by all, as Truth requires. A care is manifested to guard against detraction & to end differences. A care with an the minds of most friends, for the right education of those under their care; tho' their labors are not always attended with the desired effect.

A general care prevails to avoid the unnecessary use of Spirituous Liquors; and that moderation may be kept to, on all other occasions.

The necessities of the Poor are inspected & relief afforded.

Most friends are careful that all proceedings respecting Marriage be conformable to Discipline; some exceptions where care is extended.

Mostly careful in the particulars of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Queries, and to attend to records & Certificates: the same deficiencies appear, which are under notice.

A concern is manifest in all our Meetings for the regular dealing with Offenders and to place judgement agreeably to Discipline.

The friends appointed yesterday on account of the request from Chatham have made the following report.

"To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

"We your committee on the proposition from Chatham, for a union of that Society, having met, and after having the



"Subject further urged by friends from that Meeting and  
 "duly considered the same, it is our Judgement, that it will be  
 "safe to accede to their proposition for one year, and that a  
 "committee be appointed to visit each of said meetings at  
 "their first opening after the division & report to next yearly  
 "Meeting their Judgement of the propriety of its continuance.

"Signed on behalf of the committee, John Casey.  
 "Newport 6<sup>th</sup> mo 15<sup>th</sup> 1813. Sarah Barnard.

Which being considered & <sup>we</sup> agreed with & approved, Mary Allen,  
 Lydia Wickes, Seth Pinney, Darcas Brown, Susanna  
 Snow, Mary Howland, Avis Keene, & Lydia Dean  
 to unite with the committee of Men Friends in attending  
 to that service.

Abigail Alley having appealed from the Judgement of Salem  
 Quarterly Meeting, we appoint Elizabeth Gardner, Lydia  
 Casey, Abigail Small, & Mrs. Smith to  
 Susanna Freeborn, Mary Williams & Hephzibah Harris  
 to join a committee of Men Friends, in considering the pro-  
 priety thereof, to report at a future sitting.

We adjourn, to meet at the same time, which the Men's  
 meeting, may adjourn to.

Fourth day, Afternoon, met near the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour. The repre-  
 sentatives being called, are present that first attendance  
 except one, who is prevented by indisposition.

The friends appointed have prepared Epistles to the friends  
 by Meetings of Women friends in London, Philadelphia  
 & New York, which have been read, approved & signed.  
 In the case of Abigail Alley, report the following  
 report is laid before us. We the Committee, appointed

to consider the appeal of Daniel R. May & Abigail May  
from the judgement of Salem Quarterly Meeting, in  
confirming the judgement of the Monthly Meeting of Newe,  
in denying them the right of membership in our Society —  
After having carefully examined the circumstances as exhib-  
ited by the Appellants defence, and the representation  
of the Quarterly Meeting's Committee, are united in  
opinion that the judgement of Salem Quarterly Meeting  
ought to be confirmed.

16<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1813      Jethro Mitchell   Rich<sup>d</sup> Mowry  
Hoses & Puffer      David Buffum   Josiah Chase  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Thurston      Thos Greene      Walter Allen  
Cybele Walker      John Bailey      W<sup>m</sup> Henry      Thos Hooker  
Sarah Mrs. Persabah Harris      Susanna Harrison      Mary  
Williams      John C. Smith      Abigail Arnold      Lydia Hussey.  
Which being solemnly considered we accept & unite with  
the Newe Meeting in confirming the judgement of Salem  
Quarterly Meeting. We appoint Eliza Chase to inform  
Abigail May thereof.

Endorsements for the minutes of our beloved Friends  
Eliza Coggeshall and Ann Shipley have been  
made, approved & signed by the Clerk of both Meetings  
expressing that their company & Gospel labors have  
been acceptable amongst us.

We are informed from the Newe Meeting that our  
Salem Quarterly Meeting, Mary May was seen ap-  
pointed to the station of an Elder.

The clerk is directed to forward extracts from these minutes  
with transcripts of the Epistles we have received, to our  
Quarterly Meetings. We adjourn to the 2<sup>d</sup> Year tomorrow morning.



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Fifth day morning. met according to adjournment. The  
Representatives present who first attended except one  
who is prevented by indisposition.

It appearing probable that we may close our meeting  
more satisfactorily by coming together again this  
afternoon we adjourn to the 5th hour.

Fifth day afternoon met at the 5th hour. The  
Representatives being called are present who first  
attended. Being now present with a solemn closing  
exhortation the one led to acknowledge, that we  
esteem it a privilege, in this season of outward  
commotion to be permitted, thus quietly to convene  
and transact the affairs that have come before us,  
with at times of a comfortable degree of solemn-  
ity, when our minds have been seasonably  
refreshed together. We desire to conclude under  
a grateful sense of Mercies still continued, intend-  
ing if again permitted to meet at the usual  
time and place next year.

Signed in and on behalf, of the aforesaid  
meeting. . . . . Lydia Dean Clerk

From our yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on  
Rhode Island by adjournments from the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month  
to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1813.

to the yearly Meeting of Women first held in London.

Dear Friends

Feeling our minds influenced and heartily  
touched by that love which is not limited by national bound-  
aries, but flowing from the universal source, extends over  
sea & land to meet its original quality in the breast of every  
human being, we salute you under a joyful sense of it  
among a precious fellowship which both at this time cements  
our union with yours in the love of Christ, as our still  
dear, from whom <sup>not only</sup> we receive every Christian's virtue but every  
ability to practice them; and hath at this season introduc'd  
some of our spirits into sympathy with yours, secretly craving  
that the diffusion of this precious principle may still more  
extensively prevail - that we may availingly seek to suppress  
in our minds every thing that would disqualify us for promoting  
the glorious cause of peace & righteousness in the Earth - and while  
we mourn for the miseries of mankind, which are produc'd  
by the wickedness of the world, we will not of human ma-  
nitude may we unceasingly endeavor to edify in others, by  
circumspect example, the meekness & charity of the disciples of  
Him whose Kingdom is not of this world.

Our dear friends - we have been so much of that feeling  
which is in the hearts of the disciples of Christ, and we have  
rejoiced at this time, hath been truly grateful to many  
so hath excited in the minds of the living members among us,  
a conviction that by the qualifying influences of the same spirit,  
we may in return greet you, not as strangers, but as fellow-travelers  
bound to the same port of rest & peace where those whose gar-  
ments are washed in the blood of the Lamb will gain an  
entrance, & unite with the spirits of the just made Perfect.

To those who may feel themselves the least in God's  
love, having so much of their own, these hours at times  
are ready to hang down, & whose joints tremble by & smite each  
other, would we might the language of our agreement and in  
the effusions of truth, inspire affection, revive the impressive  
accents of the beloved Master. Greater is he that is in you, than



he that is in the world - blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven - Therefore be of good cheer ye feeble, ye that are weary, ye that are heavy laden, ye that are afflicted, ye that are afflicted with the power & majesty, affording you strength from Zion. He will anoint your eyes with the eye-salve of his sanctuary, enabling you to discover the beauties of your lands, emerging from the wilderness, administering comfort & consolation, inspiring holy confidence, and calling forth this language - "Behold, my Lord, I am here with mine eyes open!"

A tender solicitude pervades our minds, for those who are in the early walks of life - that while their hearts are susceptible of the impressions of that divine finger, which, as they are disposed to submit themselves willingly, to its influence, yielding their minds to the purifying operations of the fire, the preparing effects of the sword & the banner with which we are the "children of the Lord" - we shall them with the robes of righteousness, adorning them with a crown of glory, a diadem of beauty."

May every clasp in society, both with you & us attend to the very important engagement of watchfulness, & intercession. May the God of all grace the Father of Mercies bless the fruit of the unceasing command - make us perfect in every good word & work.

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting

Lydia Dean Clerk

From our yearly Meeting of Women's Friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1813.

To the yearly Meeting of Women's Friends held in Philadelphia  
Dear Sisters

Precious & encouraging are the evidences of our unity & fellowship, since that the testimony of our unity was given at the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> month last. And we are comforted in believing, that the Holy Spirit, descending in the midst of the public assembly, caused us to participate of the witness of your unity & fellowship, to share that refreshment which the meeting is

kindly soul earnest, & which he will not withhold from those who in humble resignation abide those seasons of genuine adversity they are ready to beg for the crumbs which fall from the children's table. May these remember that the trying of their youth is worth the patience, and they that endure temptation "shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him".

With you, we have been often painfully worried on the subject of unprofitable books and we would press upon authors to endeavor early to direct the immature mind to the writings of those whose example in life hath truly called upon beholders to follow them as they followed Christ; and whose wise lessons remain to guide and encourage the young & wavering. The varied trials and conflicts they sustain, their peace & joy, their triumphant departure from a world of dissipation, often leaves on the tender & susceptible heart impressions which continue thro' life, which animate and strengthen the young probationer to press thro' all that would obstruct a progress towards obtaining an inheritance in that city whose walls are salvation & whose gates are praise.

We feel desirous at this time, duly to appreciate the privilege of again meeting conventionally in this capacity, and to offer the tribute of gratitude to our Heavenly Father for this, & each of his favours; Amongst which we cannot but number, that of having the company and able attention of many of our beloved young sisters, who having known the beauty there is in the truth, are endeavoring to walk therein. The assistance of whom appears so precious, felt by those on whom devolves the burden of the present day. And while we rejoice in the prospect of a succession of laborers in the vineyard, we fervently hope to be preserved from being the occasion of halting in any; but crane to be enabled to say to them, come brother, come sister, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob: and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths. Thus united in the covenant of Divine love & life; how would the work



of our very presence in the house of the Father. To the  
 turning of many souls and yet after all to come. I shall and  
 see that the Lord is good. I shall see that the Lord is good  
 of him that love him, and keep his commandments.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Lydia Dean Clark

From our family, friends of Boston, that we have been  
 there, returned to our friends from the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup>  
 month to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1813.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in  
 New York.

Favored as we are, again to meet in this our Annual  
 assembly, we have been feelingly interested, we trust,  
 for the promotion of the health of the spiritual family.  
 And under a renewed sense of the goodness of Israel's  
 Shepherd, we have had to commemorate his mercy, in  
 his leading us from darkness to light, from the shadow of  
 death to the light of life, and to transact the important concerns of the Church.  
 Feeling a portion of that love which is unlimited to  
 pervade our minds, we are induced to address you beloved  
 friends, and to say, that we are, and shall be, in the  
 holy warfare, experiencing the pure principles of light  
 so as to operate in the mind as to bring all within us  
 into subjection to the divine will: then what we be  
 come, in a manner, acceptable to our Heavenly Father, & Univer  
 sal love will give us help. That we believe will be  
 enabled to lead forward those tender minds committed  
 to their charge in a humble self-denying path, guarding  
 them from the evils that are in the world - and may  
 also be made the favor & instruments of gathering many  
 strayed ones to seek an entrance into the true fold.  
 To comfort the afflicted, and as far as we are capable,  
 to bind up the broken-hearted will become our increas  
 ing engagement, and the blessings of Mount Zion be  
 the same moment. But dear friends we are hum  
 bly sensible that we cannot of our selves attain to this

desirable state; and that it is only as we close in with the  
elevation, & come under the influence of the powerful  
eternal principle of Divine Grace that we can hope  
to find assistance in the Divine sight. -- Let us therefore  
be encouraged and press towards the mark for the  
prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, that  
in the end we may receive the joyful welcome,  
I am the blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom  
prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

We have received your acceptable Epistle of the  
recent date and are comforted in believing that it  
bears the stamp of love & edification for we may remem-  
ber that it is declar'd "By this shall all men know  
that ye are my Disciples if ye have love one to  
another." We have also been comforted during  
our several visitings in the belief that the number of  
those concerned for the betterment of the Servants of  
Lion is encreasing amongst us; and altho' this meeting  
has not been as large as usual, yet we trust it has been  
blessedly aided by the great Head of the Church.

Stand in & on behalf of said meeting

Lycia Dearbolk

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Newport  
on Rhode-Island the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1814.

After a season of calm retirement proceeded to business.  
The Representatives for Rhode-Island were Susanna Thompson  
Mary Collins Martha Hazard Mary Spencer & Sarah Green.  
For Sandwich Merab Gardner Sarah Russell Sarah  
Lusher & Elizabeth Teaman. For Salem Mary Miller Ruth  
H Jones & Lycia Dorn. For Salisbury Sarah & Mary  
Phoebe Cook & Mary Douglass. For Smithfield Wait Bart.  
Let Mary Aldrich Phoebe Southwick & Hannah Wheeler  
For Salisbury Lycia Pope Phoebe Traver & Sarah  
Pauland. They being called are present except those who  
have forwarded names at home which are accepted.

Our friends Mary Wadley & Ruth Stealy being on a  
religious visit to some parts of our Yearly Meeting, have  
produced certificates of concurrence from the monthly meetings



of Starkborough and Fernisburgh, held in the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> mo<sup>th</sup> 1813 with an endorsement for the former from Fernisburgh Quarterly Meeting, expressive of the unity of their friends in the present engagement. A copy of a minute from Colonsay monthly meeting held in the 5<sup>th</sup> month last, hath been presented by our friend Deborah Fairbank who with her companion Praise Bates are acceptably with us.

Accounts from our several Quarterly Meetings have been received and read, and we have proceeded in reading four Queries & Answers. We are informed from Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting, that they have appointed Sarah Greene & Letitia Anthony to the station of Elders. And from Dorchester that Hannah Switche is appointed to that station & that they have approved the ministry of Alice Rathbone.

We adjourn to the third hour this afternoon. Second day afternoon, our agreeable to adjournment, the representatives have proposed Lydia Dean & Hannah Collins for Clerk & Assistant - which is united with, and they are accordingly appointed. The other six Queries & answers have been read, and we appoint, Alice Rathbone Elizabeth Purinton & Sarah Russell to collect a Summary, & bring to a future sitting. Those friends who have attended to the appointment of our last Yearly Meeting, respecting the division of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, have made the following report.

"We of the Committee appointed to attend the opening of the Quarterly Meetings of Falmouth & Chesselborough subsequent to the proposed division of Falmouth into two quarters. Having attended to our assignment and sat with friends at those meetings, and report, that we do not find, but that considering the various circumstances attending the case it will be as well as it can be disposed of to confirm the division of said Quarterly Meeting conformable to the provisional arrangement, which the Yearly Meeting has made for its division in the minute of our appointment. We however desire, that it will be to the advantage of those Quarterly Meetings, for the Yearly Meeting, to continue the extension of their care towards them by appointing a Committee again to visit them & the monthly meetings of which they are composed: - Which we submit to the meeting. Signed Isaac Collins. Enock Lincoln. Wm. Perry,

Paul Rogers, Sylvester Wicks, Betsey Purinton, Mary & Allen  
Walter, Allen, David, Anthony.

Massachusetts Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 1813. To the yearly Meeting held  
on Rhode Island.

We unite with the Mens Meeting in establishing said Quarterly  
Meeting of Massachusetts. The further contents of that report are  
referred for the consideration of another Yearly Meeting.

An Epistle from the yearly Meeting of Christian Friends held  
in London in the 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1813: one from Philadelphia & one  
from New York of the present year: containing pertinent re-  
marks & counsel, have been read, to our satisfaction. After  
considering the subject of preparing Epistles to those Meetings  
we appoint Mary Allen, Mary Rotch, Rebecca May, Anna  
Almy, Rebecca Dean, Sarah Green, Betsey Purinton, Abigail  
Shearman, Phebe Percival, Mary Williams Ruth Davis  
Hannah Gould Jr & Mary Robinson, to that service.

We adjourn to the time <sup>at</sup> which the Mens Meeting  
may meet tomorrow. Third day Afternoon, met at  
the 4<sup>th</sup> hour. The friends appointed have prepared a  
Summary, which has been read & approved. And is as  
follows. "It appears by the Answers to the Queries that  
our Meetings for Worship & Discipline are generally attended  
by the larger part of our Members, altho' there is a deficiency  
in each Meeting in this important duty, for which some care  
is extended. A general care to observe the hour, & to guard  
against sleeping & other unbecoming behaviour.

Love & Unity in a good degree maintained, tho' not so fully by  
all, as wholly to eradicate detraction, & suppress differences;  
wherein care is taken. It appears that most Friends are  
concerned to educate those under their care in plainness, to  
lay a due restraint on pernicious books &c and to <sup>be</sup> good  
Examples; tho' deviations are apparent in some. The holy  
Scriptures are frequently read in our families. Moderation  
& temperance mostly observed. The circumstances of the  
poor are generally attended to, & their necessities measurably  
relieved.

Altho' there appears a general care to discourage  
disorderly proceedings with respect to marriage, yet there  
is an apparent inattention hereto in some, for which care  
is taken. There is a good degree of care for the maintenance of  
our Discipline in dealing with Offenders & placing Judgement."



In hearing the answers receiv'd this year, we are again confirm'd in the belief, that there is a considerable number in each Quarterly Meeting who are endeavoring faithfully to discharge the trust committed to them, both in their families & in the Church. We assure that these will hold on their way, remembering for their encouragement, that thus the righteous shall be enabled to do & that of our hands shall be stronger & stronger. But we have had at the same time sorrowfully to observe that there is still cause to acknowledge, a great reluctance in many of our members, to attend their meetings in the middle of the week. We believe that this lukewarmness leads to many other deviations; and we lament, that such are so blind to their own good, as thus easily to absent themselves time after time from the public worship of an Almighty Being, who saileth not, often to renew his loving-kindness, extending his care over us, while we are too regardless of what we owe to Him. We should rejoice to be able to persuade these to make greater efforts than they have yet made, to leave the hindering things of this life, & join their concerned Brethren & Sisters in offering that living spiritual worship which is requir'd of every rational creature: for we have no doubt they would ere long be convinced of the benefit of such dedication; as they endeavour to wait upon the Lord, & seek unto him for help in all their difficulties, and for ability, patiently to endure the trials that assail them.

Did we sufficiently strive to attain to this humble dependent state it would no doubt be productive of forbearance & love to each other, with all the peaceable fruits of Righteousness.

There is another class for whom our sympathy hath been awakened, who in their small meetings, & in their solitary dwellings, seldom enjoy the strengthening effects of religious communion with Zion's travellers. We feel desirous that they may not be discouraged in viewing their lonely situations, but rather endeavour to gird up their minds, seeking in faith for the presence of Him who caneth for us every moment. And let these stand ready to answer what he shall demand, that they may in due time reap the reward of patience & of obedience.

Amongst the number here assembled, we believe there are those who have press'd thro' many difficulties to attend this Yearly Meeting. We hope they will derive strength & encouragement therefrom, & find when we separate one from another that they can go on their way, measurably rejoicing that we have been together.



We are comforted in observing so many amongst our Youth, whose minds appear to be increasingly attracted towards the cause of Religion; for whom we feel an ardent solicitude that they may gradually evince a firm attachment thereto, by a willingness to come forward & unite with their elder friends in the exercises of the present day; then will they also partake of the enriching new & annexes to a life of duty.

In considering the benefit which may arise from the frequent perusal of the Holy scriptures we would encourage Parents & Heads of Families to promote yet more generally, this useful employment. And knowing it to be the practice of some friends when that Query is to be answered to give an account in their preparative meetings, respecting themselves whether they are read by their families or not; we are led to recommend this subject to ~~our~~ individual considerations, how far we can unite in such a practice. May none of us dear friends consider it a painful task, but let us endeavour to make it pleasant to those about us, to obtain a thorough knowledge of the Sacred Writings; which would contribute to our enlargement in the way of Holiness. We may add, our belief, that there are many among us, who are increasingly engaged in this respect; whose hands we hope will be strengthened, by large additions to the Number.

Some advice hath been feelingly express'd on the subject of carefully watching over our own spirits; that when perplexing circumstances occur we may guard against the indulgence of a hasty disposition, which would disqualify us from shewing to those around us, an example of christian propriety: remembering that children & domestics, can easily perceive when we are not under the influence of that meek & quiet spirit, which we are at times concerned to recommend to their attention & attainment.

The Committee, selected to prepare Epistles have presented one, to the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London, which has been read, approved & signed.

The London printed Epistle of the 5<sup>th</sup> mo last year, containing instructive counsel & encouragement, has been read, we trust, to the edification of many minds.

We adjourn to the same time tomorrow, which may be agreed on, by the Men's Meeting.



Fourth day, Morning. Met at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour. The representatives being call'd are all present that first attended. The committee have presented Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of Women Friends held in Phila. & New York which have been read approved & sign'd. Adjourn to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this Afternoon.

Fourth day Afternoon: Met agreeably to adjournment. The representatives present. Endorsements for the Certificates of the friends who are with us, from the Yearly Meeting of New York, expressing of their company and religious services being acceptable to us, have been read & sign'd by the Clerks of both Meetings.

We have gratefully to acknowledge that we have felt our minds solemniz'd together, in transacting the business that has come before us, & desiring to separate under the same strengthening influence we conclude, intending to meet again, if permitted, at the usual time & place next Year. Sign'd on behalf of the Meeting

Lydia Dean Clk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode-Island by Adjournments from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo inclusive 1814. To the next Yearly Meeting of Women friends to be held in London.

Dear Friends

Some of our minds are deeply impress'd with a conviction of the truth that "without divine aid, we cannot acceptably keep open this channel of intercourse"; And altho' we are fully aware that its close, would be greatly preferable to its mere formal continuance, we are induc'd again to address you, we trust in a measure of the influence of Gospel love. So precious is the operation of this principle on the mind that we desire to cherish and cultivate its appearance whenever we feel it, uniting us to the Father of love & one unto another. So excellent are its effects, that we feel a renewed engagement for its more general prevalence among the various classes of our religious society - a prevalence which at the same time, that it would teach us, according to Apostolic advice "in lowliness of mind to esteem others better than ourselves", would cast out slavish fear, and enable the different members

of the one family, in simplicity and godly sincerity, to set the  
part of true christian friendship - For the advice, "if thy  
brother be overaken in a fault tell it him between him  
& thee" may be equally applicable on occasions of lesser as  
of greater deviation. - And the more we are under the  
government of this blessed principle, the more jealous  
shall we be, of the honor of that cause, which to many  
we trust, is their chiefest joy.

In acknowledging the receipt of your acceptable com-  
munications of last year, we may remark that we also  
have at this time the company of a large number of our  
young sisters for all of this class who evince an increasing  
conformity to the precepts of our dear Redeemer, as well  
as for those who are not yet arrived into the only path of  
true peace, we feel an affectionate concern that they  
may patiently endure the necessary preparation, for  
that service in the spiritual family, which must de-  
volve on the successors of those, who are called to reap  
the reward of a well-spent life.

Notwithstanding the commotion which prevails in  
the Earth, we have cause grateful, to number our  
blessings, and we consider it not the least among these,  
that our minds, have on the present occasion, been solemn-  
ized together, & united in harmonious engagement, for  
the proper conduct of the business, which has come  
before us.

With desires for our mutual advancement in  
every Christian Virtue, we bid you farewell & are  
your affectionate sisters. Signed in & on behalf  
of said Meeting. Lydia Dean Clerk.

From our yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on  
Rhode Island by adjournments from the 13<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup>  
mo to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive months.

To the next yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
in Philadelphia.

Dear Sisters

Some of our Minds (we trust) are at this  
time sensible of the prevalence of a portion of that love  
which breeds Peace on Earth & good will to All: in wh



we can affectionately salute you with renewed desires for our  
mutual preservation & advancement in the path of Holiness.  
And while humbled under realized sinners that of ourselves  
we can do nothing, may we be found increasingly engag'd  
to wait upon Him who is the Author of all our sure mer-  
cies, for a renewal of strength, who will in his own time  
assuredly arise for the help of all such as look unto him  
in sincerity of heart. Let us dear friends, be encour-  
aged, patiently to endure the turning, of his all power-  
ful hand upon us that we more than ever, even a progress  
in sanctification, & become qualified for usefulness  
in the Church. Do we not feel the necessity of  
this qualification when we view the vacant seats of those  
who, having devoted their lives to the cause of Truth, are  
called hence, to receive the glorious reward of their labors.  
We believe, that a conviction of this kind, is often raised in  
many minds, who are not willing to submit to the prepara-  
tory baptisms, whereby they may come to walk by the same  
rule" and "mind the same thing". For these, we are intro-  
duced into a deep concern, and fervent are our desires, that  
they may know hard things to be made easy & bitter things  
sweet, through that anointing which cometh from the  
Holy One, which not only enables us to see clearly wherein  
our peace consisteth, but with this sight, conveys a portion of  
strength as we are willing to accept it, that will be found suf-  
ficient for the trial of the day. How efficacious is that  
faith comparable to a grain of mustard seed in removing  
out of our way those things, which like mountains have  
arisen in the path of self-denial! Let us cherish the  
least appearance of it in our hearts, that we may, by in-  
creasing spiritualism, become fruitful in the field of offering  
and joyful in the house of prayer.

An exercise hath been feelingly manifest-  
ed at this time, an account of deficiency in the attendance  
of our members, believing the frequent neglect of  
them greatly retards religious progress, & increases that like-  
warmness which proves an introduction to many succeed-  
ing deviations. Hence all our members, in the discharge of  
this duty in the middle of the week as well as on that day set  
apart by others for divine worship, & when collected, engaged pro-

properly to commune with our own hearts in stillness, waiting upon him, who is the resurrection & the life, we should no doubt be favor'd with access to that source of spiritual refreshment from whence strength would arise to cultivate good in ourselves & one to each other, with all the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Among the instructive observations in your respectable Epistle of the present year, that which alludes to the benefit resulting from an attention to the established discipline of our Society, was grateful to our feelings. May all be incessantly stimulated to live conformably thereto, & not have fear of appearing singular to the world, slight the restrictions, enjoined by that wisdom, which is profitable to direct: and may those who are concerned to maintain its wholesome regulations, be preserved under the influence of that Charity, which seeketh not its own, but is long-suffering & kind.

With a grateful acknowledgement that we have been favor'd to feel our minds nearly united, in conducting the business that has come before us, we bid you affectionately farewell. Signed on behalf of the meeting  
Lydia Dean Cook

From our Yearly Meeting of Women friends held on Rhode-Island by adjournments from the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 15<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1814. To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York.

Dear Sisters. Not in the oldness of the letter, but in newness of life, are a number among us, desirous of addressing you, believing that under the influence of this enlivening power, the spirits even of those who are personally remote, may be sweetly cemented together, and feel an interest in each others advancement towards the mountain of Zion, where the most desirable Blessing is commanded to descend. May the faithful within your borders, be united by those in ours, in continuing to obey the voice of the beloved of souls. As Moses was led forward, supported by the Arm unseen, so will these be safely conducted, receiving instruction in their progress, whereby they will be qualified to speak to the children that they also may go forward. To those, whose allotment in life may necessarily separate them from the living & concerned members of the family, who feel themselves placed in



solitary situations perhaps encircled with difficulties unnumbered by human inspection; ready at seasons to exclaim - "who shall show us any good?" Thro' this medium we would encourage these to put their trust in the Lord; - look unto him from whom help is deriv'd - you are seen by his all pervading eye - his ear is always open to the sighs of the poor in spirit, & the cry of the suppliant, proceeding from a contrite heart, are regarded by him; who was with Joseph in the prison house, strengthen'd him to resist temptation, sustain'd in adversity, and in affliction was his comforter.

When the importance of the signified cause of Righteousness, presented in review before the nightly exercis'd mind, desires are awakened therein, that all may become partakers of the fertilizing effects of that pure principle, which is attended to, will enable the rising generation to supply the places of those, who ere long will be loosen'd from their tenements of clay, and the purified spirits of these be rewarded for their services by joining the general assembly of the Church in Heaven. Some among us feel that love to circulate in our hearts in which we can greet you dear young sisters with the language of invitation - come taste of that peace which is the result of obedience to the intimations of the invisible Monitor - the voice of wisdom intelligibly communicating to the observing mind, "love them that love me, & those that seek me early, shall find me". To this we apprehend many with you can set their seals, who have submitted to the refinement of the fire, cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus found him to be an intercessor for them with the Father, and obtain'd evidence that if they remain steadfast - invincible they will be co-heirs with him in his Kingdom.

We may acknowledge that the reading of your acceptable Epistle has been comfortable to our feelings. May we be mutually engag'd to cultivate the soil of our hearts, that the seed of the Kingdom may spring forth and flourish therein, then the produce thereof will be fruits meet for the acceptance of our heavenly Father, and be strengthening one of another. Thus shall we be preserv'd in the unity of the Spirit, & in the bond of peace in which we may at this time salute you and affectionately bid you farewell. Signed in & on behalf of the meeting.

Ludia Dean &c.

At a Yearly Meeting of Women & Friends held at New-  
port on Rhode Island the 10<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1815.

After a season of Retirement proceeded to business  
By accounts which have been received & read from our several  
quarterly Meetings the representatives are, for Dover Lane  
Lydia Wickes, Sarah Buffinton, Susanna Beecher.  
Martha Garrison & Abigail Arnold. For Salem Lydia Reed,  
Rebecca Dean, Lydia Dean & Amy Romans. For Providence,  
Carrie Mitchell, Sarah Tucker, Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman, Mary  
Howland, Phebe Hussey & Mary Wingard. For Dartmouth  
Abigail Dyer, Anne Burinton, Phebe Cobb, Hannah Winslow  
and Carrie Boyce. For Smithfield Lydia Gales, Mary B.  
Allen, Rachel Carle and Eliz<sup>th</sup> Smith. For Passaborough,  
Phebe Hussey and Mary Saxcock, who being called are present  
except five for whose absence sufficient reasons were rendered.  
The Queries, with answers received at this time have been read;  
and we are informed from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that  
they have united with the monthly meetings of Vantucket  
& Dartmouth in the appointment of Lydia Macy 3<sup>rd</sup> and  
Eliz<sup>th</sup> Howland to the station of Elders.

Eliz<sup>th</sup> Beckham, Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rotch jr Mary Hussey & Lydia Carle  
are requested to prepare a summary & bring to a future sitting.  
An acceptable report from the Yearly Meeting of Women & Friends  
held in Philadelphia in the 4<sup>th</sup> month last, containing pertinent  
remarks and counsel has been received and read at this time.

We adjourn to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon.

Second day Afternoon. Not agreeably to adjournment. These  
representatives have proposed Lydia Dean for Clerk & Carrie  
Mitchell for Assistant, which being united with them are accord-  
ingly appointed. Our friend Emma Whitwell presented  
a certificate from the monthly meeting of Cohasset & Fairfield  
State of New Jersey held the 25<sup>th</sup> of the 5<sup>th</sup> mo last expressing their  
unity with her concern to attend this Yearly Meeting. She  
being accompanied by our friend Anna Garnall a copy of



a minute was produc'd from the mo. meetg in Philadelphia for the Northern district held the 23<sup>rd</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> mo, uniting therewith. The fds appointed have prepar'd a Summary, which has been read & approv'd. and is as follows.

It appears that all our Meetings have been generally attended by the greater part of our Members; yet some deficiency is express'd in the attendance of our week day meetings. The hour nearly observ'd. Mostly clear of sleeping & other unbecoming behaviour.

Love & Unity are in a good degree preserv'd among us. mostly clear of detraction, generally clear of differences, where any exceptions have occur'd, indeavours have been used to remove them. A concern appears to bring up those under our direction in plainness altho' a departure from simplicity is evident in some instances. The perusal of the Holy Scriptures is generally attended to. Generally careful to avoid the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors, & to attend to the other parts of this query. Care is extended towards the poor as relates to the several parts of this query.

Many are careful that all proceedings with regard to marriage be conformable to our discipline. Marriages are duly recorded, some deficiencies with respect to births and deaths. Care is generally taken to deal with Offenders and a concern express'd to place judgement agreeably to our discipline.

A proposal has been laid before us from the Men's Meeting respecting the division of Salem Quarterly Meeting which being consider'd we appoint Mary Howland, Mary B. Allen, Dorcas Brown, Eunice Fildes & Sarah Green to unite with their committee in deliberating upon the subject & report to a future sitting. An acceptable Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York in the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> months last has been received and read to our satisfaction & encouragement. The subject of addressing them & our Friends in Phila<sup>a</sup> being consider'd, we appoint Dorcas Brown Eunice Fildes Jane Anna Henry, Mary Newhall

Ruth Davis, Mary Rotch & Deborah Ellis, to that service.

We adjourn to the 10<sup>th</sup> hour tomorrow morning.

Three day morning, but agreeably to adjournment. The  
Sanctuary Epistle of the 5<sup>th</sup> mo 1814 containing deeply  
interesting instruction has been read we trust to some de-  
gree of edification. Rebecca Dean & Betsy Purinton

are requested to prepare endorsements for the friends  
who are with us, from New Jersey & Pennsylvania.

Altho' the state of society as exhibited this year in the answers to  
the Queries, has not openly appear'd to claim the same attention  
which has been manifested on some former occasions, we believe  
that many deeply exercis'd minds have <sup>been</sup> secretly occupied with  
its interesting concerns. These, notwithstanding the <sup>un</sup>favor-  
able cloud which has rested on the Tabernacle, have known we  
trust thro' patient indwelling, that access to the fountain of life  
which they have been enabled to administer to the refreshment  
of those who are thirsting after its enlivening influences. Thro  
the medium of this care & exercise a portion of encouragement  
has been communicated to those who are ready at seasons to  
apprehend that they are unworthy of Divine Notice, & their  
judgement passed over. Such we hope will remember that  
however possible it may be to forget the author & his of nature  
the Creator of the ends of the Earth will not forget his  
workmanship, but give to power to the faint, & to those who  
have no might of their own he will increase strength.

As we abide in a humble waiting state conform-  
ably to the instruction of our Blessed Lord, to ask  
for daily inward we believe that a sufficient portion of that  
spiritual food which is convenient for us will be duly  
administer'd.

An exhortation hath been feelingly extended  
to our young friends many of whom have given their solid  
attention at this time that they prize the privilege, when  
favor'd with an early guarded education, and endeavour to  
maintain that propriety of conduct which will not only pro-



promote their own progress towards religious experience, but may have a powerful tendency in encouraging others to seek an acquaintance with the same restraining principle. We desire that these may feel the necessity of improving their youthful days, while free from some of the cares of life, in storing the mind with things excellent and consider that none of their acquirements are likely to prove a blessing, without the knowledge of Divine Truth.

The language of sympathy and encouragement has been imparted to Heads of Families with a view to strengthen them in discharging the important trust committed to them, and particularly impressive upon Mothers that they be careful to inform their children of a principle operating on the mind at a very early age, teaching what is good, and convincing them that they ought to obey its dictates in order to obtain true peace.

Those who are situated in small Meetings & Neighborhoods have claim'd our feeling consideration, with earnest desires that they may not be discourag'd from steadily persevering in the Christian path, but often endeavour to increase their acquaintance with the reasoning virtue of the Heavenly Kingdom remembering that no same flower is near for support and direction that hath been in all ages, a Stay, and a Staff, unto those who are of the upright in heart.

We adjourn to the same time, at which the Mens meeting may conclude to meet. Fourth day morning; Met at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour. The committee appointed have prepar'd Epistles to Women friends in, Bristol and New York which have been read, & mov'd to sign'd as a book after a small addition to the latter, commemorating the favor extended to us in the restoration of Peace to our afflicted country and desiring our Gratitude may reverently arise from every mind in some degree proper, and to be great a blessing.

Then appointed to join a committee of Men friends in consid.

considering the propriety of dividing Salem Quarterly Meeting,  
have made the following report. We, of the Committee on  
"the proposition for dividing for dividing Salem Quarl<sup>y</sup> Meetg  
"report, that upon conferring with several frds of that meetg,  
"and deliberately considering the subject, it is our judgement,  
"it will be safe to adopt their proposition for one year; and  
"that a committee be appointed to attend each of said Meetings  
"at their first opening, after the division takes place, and re-  
"port their judgement, of the propriety of its continuance.  
"to next yearly Meeting. Richard Mitchell. Pelig Mitchell  
"Newport 13<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1815 Eunice Mitchell. Mary B Allen."

After deliberating on the subject, we unite in the conclusion  
to ~~grant~~ the proposition, & establish them under the names  
of Salem Quarterly, Pelina and Dover Quarterly Meetings.  
We appoint Dorcas Brown, Anna Allen, Hannah Dennis,  
Pruth Davis, Eliz<sup>th</sup> Crotch Jun<sup>r</sup>, Dorcas Gardner, & Eliz<sup>th</sup> Smith,  
to attend at the opening of each, & to report to the next  
Yearly Meeting. We adjourn to the fifth hour this afternoon.  
Met agreeably to adjournment. Endorsements for the  
Certificate & Minute of our friends Lemina Stowell and  
Anna Gannall have been read, approv'd & sign'd in both  
meetings; whose company & services have been acceptable  
& encouraging to us. The subject refer'd last year respecting  
Vassalborough Quarl<sup>y</sup> Meetg is now dismiss'd.

The Clerk is directed to forward Extracts from these minutes  
with transcripts of the Epistles received to each of our quarterly  
Meetings.

Having receiv'd at this season various portions of instruction, both  
immediately and instrumentally, we desire to conclude, under  
a grateful acknowledgement of manifold mercies, intending to  
meet again, if permitted, at the usual time & place next year.

Yours in love & behalf of the Meeting. Lydia Davis Clerk.



From our Society Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1815.

To the next yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held in  
Philadelphia

Dear Friends

In acknowledging the receipt of your acceptable Epistle we unite with you in desires that we may steadily endeavour to attain to the substance instead of the shadow of things — believing that by dwelling in a state of watchfulness and keeping under a daily review of mind, we shall be enabled to discern between things seemingly excellent, and those which are really so. Since there is so great a tendency in the human mind to rest in its present experience, to linger in the spiritual journey, and to remain satisfied with the regular performance of certain duties, how necessary is it that we continually labour after a preparation to hear, & obey the injunction formerly given, "Go forward." — Too often is the language applicable to us "Go true compass this mountain long enough" when we steadily following our Blessed Leader, we might ascend step by step, and attain to clearer views & a more enlarg'd possession of present and future peace. Some of our minds are renewedly impress'd with concern for many hidden exercis'd members of the family, who, tho' scarcely known as such, are lending spiritual aid to the Church: and who, were it not for too great backwardness in opening, coming up to its help might be found firm supporters of the work of the testimony. These will find that when the right time presents for stepping forward nothing is gained by waiting for another — And we earnestly desire that all such may in simplicity and singleness of heart be increasingly willing, to do what their hands find to do — Some of their discouragements doubtless arise from a disposition in others to be always ready, and to put forth a

a hand unbidden; but whatever obstacles appear in their way, they may by faith and christian humility advance in the cause of righteousness to their own unspeakable benefit. When our minds were generally gathered into this state of christian humility & watchfulness unto prayer our souls' enemies would be put to flight, not by might or by power, but by the spirit of the Lord: and by a daily dependance on our God we should be enabled to detect the various transformations of self-love in ourselves & the eye that may have been in some degree clouded thereby would be enlightened to see its most secret windings and every nest short of the true nest would be shaken. "Behold, I create new Heavens and a new Earth: and the former shall not be remembered nor come into mind."

We observe with sympathy your remarks on the removal of a number who have been as pillars in the Militant Church, and our solicitude is attended with a comfortable belief that the vacant places of these will be supplied by faithful advocates of the cause of Truth & Righteousness.

In love we salute you and are your friends & sisters  
in & on behalf of the Meeting, Lydia Dear Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1815.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York.

Dear Sisters

Without the animating influence of that pure principle which unites the children of the family, awakening in them a lively engagement for the prosperity of Zion and the enlargement of her borders, we are aware that communications of this kind, however replete with human wisdom, tend neither to the advancement of the cause, or to the encouraging one of another to love & good works. — Altho' many of our minds at this season are cloathed as with the



spirit of heaviness; yet we trust there are those among us, who being gather'd as under the banner of the Prince of Peace, can feelingly tho' in secret, salute you, & desire our mutual progress toward the Holy Land - an establishment within the munition of Rocks, where bread will be given us, and water will be sure. Various are the obstructions that present themselves to the view of the dedicated <sup>mind</sup> - even to those who prefer Jerusalem to their chiefest joy. May these remember that in quietness and confidence will be their strength: that as the mind centers in true humility, wherein it feels its own insufficiency, and entire dependence upon the Divine Arm, he will not forsake us, though our faith may be tried, tho' our spiritual enemies may compass the "beloved city" and seem ready to triumph over us, in his own appointed time he will arise; He, and the Ark of his strength, and as formerly, will enable "five to chase an hundred, and an hundred to put ten thousand to flight."

There is another class in society, for whom, at times, we feel a deep concern; those who at some period of their lives have been livingly awaken'd by the power of an endless <sup>life</sup>, who have been thereby induced to shake themselves from the dust of the Earth & have put on the beautiful garments of Zion, but who have nevertheless grown lukewarm in their love, forgetting that God is a spirit, and refusing submission to the word of his power - fearing the dividing influence of the sword of the spirit, which turneth every way to keep the way of the Tree of life - because of these the ways of Zion mourn, inasmuch as they are not prepar'd to come up to her solemn feasts.

Those who are in the morning of life, whose susceptible minds have felt the sweet distillation of heavenly refreshment, & been brought thereby secretly to say call me & I will hear thee, draw me and I will follow thee, we would encourage, to cast your care upon him, who is able to succour, and you will be sustain'd even in seasons of adversity when no earthly assistance can administer relief, and feel the consoling evidence of that peace which the World can neither give;

nor take away, and be circumspect nothing manifest to others, that the light which illumines the path of the dedicated continues to shine brighter & brighter unto the perfect day.

We are led thankfully to acknowledge our sensibility of the benefit extended to us, in the restoration of Peace to our Afflicted Country & desire, that Gratitude may reverently arise from every mind in some degree proportion'd to so great a Blessing.

In love we remain your affectionate friends and Sisters —

Signed in & on behalf of the Meeting. Lydia Dean Gk

At a yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode-  
Island the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month 1816.

After a season of solid retirement proceeded to business. By accounts received from the several Quarterly Meetings the Representatives are, for Rhode Island Abigail Greene Lydia Hicks Martha Hazard, Sarah Fowler, Hannah Dennis & Eunice Brayton, for Salem Rebecca Dean, Lydia Dean & Ruth Jones, for Sandwich Ruth Davis Sylvia Grinnell, Eliza<sup>th</sup> Mitchell, Sarah Wood Anna Staid & Ann Hussey, for Falmouth Phoebe Cobb, Desire Cobb & Dorothy Stephens, for Smithfield Patience Earl Hannah Holder, Laura Capron, & Mary Davenport, for Vassalborough Dorothy Wing Lydia Purinton & Mary Haw-  
lan, for Dover Abigail Davis Anna & Wendall Hannah Buffum & Mary T. Brown, who being called are present except Eunice Brayton who is prevented attending by indisposition.

Certificates & copies of Minutes have been produced & read on behalf of our friends, Anna M Thorne, Eliza<sup>th</sup> Caggeshall Jemima Keys, Dorothy Hopkins, Margaret Juge Dorothy Golden, Alice Abbott, Judith Coffin, Eliza<sup>th</sup> Baldwin & Sally Parry each expressive of the concurrence of the meetings to which they belong, in their present engagement they being acceptably with us at this time.

A nice Epistle from the yearly Meeting of Women friends held in London in 1815. likewise one from Philadelphia & one from New York of the present year have been received containing



pertinent remarks & counsel, were read to our satisfaction & comfort. After deliberating on the subject of addressing them, we appoint Abigail Arnold Dorcas Brown, Elizabeth Rodman, Hannah Collins, Patience Carl, Ruth Davis, Avis Keene, Hannah Arnold, Deborah Otis, Anna Almy & Mary Rotch, to prepare Epistles to those Meetings.

Abigail Greene, Sarah Coffin, Sarah R Arnold & Lydia Rodman, are appointed to prepare endorsements for the Certificates of the frds who are with us, from other nearby Meetings. We adjourn to the time, at which Men frds may conclude to meet.

2nd day afternoon, met at the 4th hour. The Representatives having propos'd Lydia Dear for Clerk & Mary Rotch assistant, it was united with, & they appointed to that service. We have receiv'd accounts from the several meetings constituting this, by wh. we are inform'd that Sandwich Quar<sup>r</sup> Meetz hath united with New Bedford monthly meetz in approving the ministry of Experience Sherman: that Salem Quar<sup>r</sup> Meetz hath united with Seabrook mo meetz in the appointment of Abigail Folsom, & Ruth Jones to the Station of Elders, that Smithfield Quarter hath united with Wabridge mo meetz in appointing Hannah Arnold & with Smithfield in the appointment of Abigail Reed, & that Vassalbor<sup>n</sup> unites with Leeds mo meetz in appointing Mary Dear to that station. Elizabeth Rodman is requested to inform the Select Meeting.

The Queries & Answers have been read & lively, ~~instructive~~ ~~re-~~marks were made respecting the deficiencies therein apparent.

Among the portions of instructive advice communicated to us at this time, we have been admonish'd to consider the importance of centering to our respective gifts, however small they may appear to the possessor, whether they are such as call for active service in the Church, or secret spiritual exercise and reminder, that in proportion to our individual negligence & inattention we become burdensome to the living - that to love our Creator with all the heart is better than sacrifice, or whole burnt-offerings, and the only means of emancipation from the chains of darkness & every oppressive yoke.

Those in the morning of life have been seriously call'd upon to "take heed how they hear," lest those things which are design'd as blessings, should in the event of unfaithfulness, increase the weight of condemnation; and affectionately persuaded to lend the aid of their spirits, in union with the exercise of their elders



sisters, & to remember the example of Abraham the father of the faithful, who not only presented his offering, but carefully watch'd it, lest the fowls of the air should take it away. May all those among this interesting part of the family who feel their minds increasingly attracted toward a life of self-denial, as the only path of solid peace, take up the noble resolution, Let others do as they may, as for me, I will serve the Lord.

The general acknowledgement of deficiency in one of our most important duties, that of attending religious meetings in the middle of the week, is painfully affecting to many minds; & we would that it were possible to convey to the distant members of the family, the deep solicitude which has at this time been felt for their awakened sensibility on a subject so interesting in its nature and so inseparably connected with their progress in the truth - for where an indifference prevails to the assembling ourselves together to wait on the Lord for a renewal of strength to maintain the warfare against our souls enemies we fall by little & little & are very liable to become altogether their prey. - We have been feelingly reminded of the sufferings of our dignified Ancestors, who press'd thro' all their difficulties, & even when they were not permitted a shelter from the rain, met together to wait in solemn silence on their God - a very serious appeal to us, who are enjoying in uninterrupted ease, the fruit of their Afflictions.

Notwithstanding a comfortable evidence that love & unity, the precious badge of discipleship, generally prevails amongst us, the acknowledgement of some deficiency herein, has claim'd the attention of many feeling minds - We have been reminded of the declaration "God is love & they that dwell in him, dwell in love," consequently every thing of an opposite nature, remain to us a sorrowful proof, that those who indulge it, are remote from his presence, and incapacitated to unite with the operation of his divine law in the heart.

In being admonish'd to renew'd vigilance in the case of the poor, and that all may be willing freely to impart whatever they have to spare, for the comfort of these. A sentiment of our valuable Predecessor Wm Penn was impressively revived amongst us that the trappings & ornaments of a vain world would be sufficient to feed the hungry & clothe the naked."



The subject of the advice annexed to the Queries, that we be faithful in the support of our testimony against Slavery, has been with much feeling brought home to our view, and a desire prevails in some of our minds, that the practice of consuming the produce of the labor of our suffering fellow-creatures, may not be disregarded by us, but claim our serious attention, & a willingness to examine, what sacrifices <sup>are</sup> on this deeply affecting subject, call'd for at our hands.

In being admonish'd to more attention in expressing a sentiment, on subjects which come before our meetings for discipline, it is recommended, that friends appointed to services, be very careful how they make excuses; and that they wait until such appointments are gone thro' with, before they withdraw their names, lest it operate as a discouragement to others when by longer reflection, they may feel bound to the service & not at liberty to transfer it to another.

A tender sympathy has been manifested for those who have deeply to feel for the deviations of the present day, & they encourag'd to believe, that the tears which are sown in secret, shall be had in remembrance before the Lord. And an increasing care has been tenderly urged upon mothers to have a portion of the Scriptures of Truth daily read in their families, as likely to increase their qualification to perform other duties - to bring their children regularly to meetings with them, since their minds are often susceptible of the tendering visitations of the heavenly father's love at a very early age; and to prepare, as far as they may be enabled to do, the way of the Lord in their youthful hearts, by that religious care that most important part of education, which is only secondary to teachings of the divine principle inwardly revealed.

The subject of obedience to Parents has been spread before the younger classes of society, with a view to encourage a submission to their wise restraints, & the blessings thereto annexed in sacred record, feelingly review'd; "Children obey your Parents in the Lord for this is right - Honour thy Father & thy Mother, which is the first commandment with promise"

We have been exhorted to renew'd diligence in the performance of every manifested duty; and the hidde'n, exercised travellers encouraged to keep the faith in seasons of trial, & severe privation of all spiritual sustenance - not desiring to be reliev'd therefrom in their own time, but continuing to dig as with their staves in their hands for the arising of life;



that as gold is tried in the fire & no particle of the precious metal lost by the purifying process, so those who are under the refining ministrations of the divine spirit, will be brought forth in due season to the rejoicing of their souls.

We adjourn to the time, at wh<sup>ch</sup> the mens meetg may conclude to meet. Third day afternoon, met at the third hour. The committee appointed have prepar'd an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London which has been read, approv'd & sign'd.

The committee appointed last year to attend at the opening of Salem & Dover Quarterly Meetings report, that a part of their number attended them, to a good degree of satisfaction.

A lively Testimony from Berwick monthly Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> month 1816 on behalf of our belov'd Ancient friend Mabelable Jenkins, expressive of her humble, pious, life, & peaceful close, has been read at this time; which we hope will animate others to follow her, as she was enabled to follow her Lord.

Ew<sup>th</sup> Mitchell & Elv<sup>th</sup> Rogers are appointed to prepare a summary & bring to a future sitting.

This meeting adjourns to the time at wh<sup>ch</sup> men frds may meet.

Fourth day morning met at the 10<sup>th</sup> hour. The committee selected for that purpose, have prepar'd Epistles to the Yearly Meetg of Phila<sup>a</sup> & New York, wh<sup>ch</sup> are approv'd & sign'd. The frds appointed have prepar'd a Summary wh<sup>ch</sup> has been read, approv'd & is as follows. "By the accounts from our several Quarterly Meetg it appears that our Meetings for worship & discipline are generally well attended by most friends, yet a remissness is observable in some, in the attendance of mid-week meetings, on wh<sup>ch</sup> account some care has been taken: the hour generally observ'd, frds mostly preserv'd fr<sup>m</sup> sleeping & other unbecoming behaviour.

There appears a care in each meeting to maintain love & unity, & to guard against detraction, yet some deficiencies on these accounts are apparent. A general care prevails with respect to differences.

There are many amongst us concern'd for the right education of those under their care, and to be exemplary themselves, yet a more general care in the discharge of this important duty appears to be wanting. There is an increase of care to promote the frequent reading of the Holy Scriptures in families. Moderation & temperance generally observ'd, when an exception has occur'd, care has been extended.

The circumstances of the poor inspected, & their necessities mostly reliev'd. There is a care with most frds that all practice



ings with respect to marriage be conformable to discipline? Altho' several instances have been reported at this time of marriages out of society, on which acct. care was taken. Some fear has been expressed that all are not so careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances as would be consistent with their own welfare or the reputation of society. There are some deficiencies in regard to recording, a general care with respect to certificates. Our discipline respecting offenders is generally maintained."

The fds appointed have prepar'd endorsements wh. have been read & sign'd in both meetings, expressing that the company & services of our fds fr<sup>m</sup> other yearly Meetings are acceptable to us. We adjourn to half past three o'clock this afternoon.

Fourth day afternoon, met agreeably to adjournment. The representatives being call'd are present that first attendee.

The London Printed Epistle of 1815 containing much instructive admonition was read at this time. The clerk is directed to forward transcripts of the written epistles received, & extracts fr<sup>m</sup> these minutes to our Yearly Meetings.

We have gratefully to acknowledge that our several sittings have been attended with a comfortable degree of solemnity, and with evidences of increasing religious concern. Instructions & encouragement have been imparted thro' the lively exercise of divers beloved sisters fr<sup>m</sup> other yearly Meetings whose Gospel labors amongst us we hope will be remember'd to lasting benefit. We desire to conclude under a reverent sense of Divine good mercifully extended, intending to meet again if permitted, at the usual time & place next year. Signed in & on behalf of the Meeting  
Lydia Dean Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode-Island by adjournments from the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1816. To the next yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in London.

Dear Friends

In being again collected in a yearly Meeting capacity your very acceptable Epistle of last year is one of the renew'd evidences, that a similarity of engagement prevails among the members of the family at large, however various our outward allotments. And it is the concern of a remnant that we may individually so dwell under the powerful principle of light & life, as to be witness its crucifying operations separating as between Saul & spirit, joints

& narrow & bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, as to experience its refreshing influence & healing virtue. Then shall we be enabled to center in our proper gifts, to keep our ranks in righteousness, & to hold forth in example to those of less experience the encouraging language, "follow us as we follow Christ."

We are tenderly solicitous that all may be induced to enter a city wh<sup>ch</sup> hath foundations, whose builder & maker is the Lord alone is - and that those with you & us who are not sufficiently aware of the importance of this engagement, may be prevailed upon so to attend to the convictions of truth, as experimentally to adopt the language of the Psalmist "I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto thy testimonies" - and eventually brought with him to this acknowledgement - "Thy testimonies are wonderful therefore doth my soul keep them."

In transacting the important concerns of Christian discipline which have come before us, a living exercise has been felt & much instruction counsel imparted, & we are comforted in believing that the number is increasing of those who prefer Jerusalem to their chiefest joy.

Having been favored since our last address, & you to witness relief from the awful calamities of war, we are induced to commemorate the restoration of outward tranquility, to acknowledge your sympathy under past trials, and to crave that our minds may be duly impressed with gratitude proportioned to so great a blessing.

Under a degree of the influence of that uniting love wherein we can breathe for each other's welfare we bid you farewell. Signed in & on behalf of the Meeting  
Lydia Dean Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1816.  
To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in Phila<sup>a</sup>.  
Dear Friends

On reading the several communications received from distant Yearly Meetings & in conducting the business that has come before us at this time, we have been reminded & have also been brought to observe to the truth of the doctrine of the Apostle representing the wise economy of the



Holy Head of the Church, that tho' there be many members they are but one body - that the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee, nor again, the hand to the feet, I have no need of you - and under a feeling sense of our dependance upon that divine power which qualifies for its own use, and cements livingly exercis'd minds, a remnant are desirous that we may be so careful in all our movements as to be mutually preserv'd therein, and finally presented faultless to Christ with exceeding joy.

In looking toward the youthful part of Society we are encourag'd in the prospect of increas'd dedication in a very considerable number; and tho' it may not be consistant with the wisdom of their Holy Leader that they should reap the fruits thereof in their own time, we desire that patience may so have its perfect work that judgement may be brought forth unto victory, & that these may be prepar'd for the coming of their Lord.

For those who are not yet sufficiently sensible of the efficacy of the gathering principle & power of truth, much feeling solicitude hath been express'd, that they might be brought to consider that they are refusing his protection, his fostering care, who would be to them an ever lasting Father, mighty to save - when painfully convinc'd that our standing is unsafe, how wise will it be to cleave to that which enables us to discern it which will disturb every false rest, and gradually center us on the sure foundation. - then shall the best of blessings descend & crown with joy unspeakable the awaken'd mind purific'd by baptism to serve the living God.

In the renew'd feeling of Gospel Love we bid you farewell, & are your affectionate sisters.

Sign'd in & on behalf of the meeting Lydia Dean

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island, by adjournments from the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1816.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held in New York.

Dear Sisters

Some of our friends are sensible that it is not from a redundancy of the animating influence of heavenly refreshment that we are inclin'd at this season to address you, in reply to your acceptable

Epistle; but rather under a feeling of want: yet we are ven-  
uedly impress'd with the belief that in this state there is safely  
provided there is an engagement maintain'd, a hunger & a  
thirst present, this being the situation, to which the promise  
of our blessed Master applies: blessed are the poor in spirit  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

We have been favor'd at this our Annual solemnity, with  
the company and services of several exercised sisters from  
neighboring Yearly Meetings, which have been truly comforting  
to our minds; and we are ready to crave that their labors of love  
may not be lost to us, but that an increased degree of diligence  
may prevail among our members at large, that the profession  
which we are making, may not be only a name, but that the  
light within our human hearts, may be more actively abiding,  
& the reflections thereof discoverable in all our movements. While  
this care is felt for ourselves, it also extends to you, thro' the medium  
of that love which desires the prosperity of all: And we would  
seriously recommend an undeviating obedience to the Manifest-  
ations of truth within; it is here we must center, in order to become  
qualified rightly to step forward in the line of religious useful-  
ness, & receive the desirable covering of meekness & quietude  
which in the sight of the all-pervading eye, is of great price:  
With this clothing upon our spirits we can readily collect the  
preservation of those in early life; they, seeing the charity, & affec-  
tion which actuates our conduct will be attracted towards the  
principles, which is simple, yet convincing. The rising genera-  
tion is an interesting part of the family, you, dear young friends  
claim the sympathy, & have a large share of the regard of  
those who are further advanc'd; who having experienc'd the  
many disadvantages attendant on departing from the path of  
self-denial, can feelingly entreat you to keep your feet within  
the limits prescribed by inscrutable wisdom; herein you will be  
fed with food convenient for you.

Those who may have disregarded the cross of our Redeemer, &  
turned aside from the reproofs of instruction, we would invite  
to reflect on the important purpose for which you were created:  
this is not the place of your rest, but only as one preparatory to  
a never ending existence, either separated from the divine har-  
mony, or to enjoy the reward of the righteous in the life to come  
eternal day: The arms of compassionate kindness are open to



receive you, as there is a disposition on your part to return to the Father's house; where you will find bread enough and to spare.

May that precious cement which unites the faithful followers of our blessed Lord, continue to bind us one to another, and by the aid of his holy spirit, let us endeavour to perform our various duties to the praise of his Adorable Name.

In the renewings of Gospel fellowship we affectionately bid you farewell. Signed in & on behalf of the Meeting  
Lydia Dean Clerk.

At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode Island from the 16th of the 6th month to the 27th of the same month 1810.

Met agreeably to the conclusion of last year, and after a season of solid retirement proceeded to business.

The Representatives are, From Rhode Island Anna Ashbury, Mary C. Robinson, Decca Brown, Mary Williams & Hannah Carter; From Salem Mercy Allen, Mary Marshall & Lydia Dean; From Yarmouth, Elizabeth Mannan, Sarah Moore, Salina Lifford, Elizabeth Milneice, Mary Card, Maria Candace & Lucia Hussey; From Guilford, Abigail Weston & Phoebe Cobb; From Ipswich Ruth Eale, Mary B. Allen, Hannah Holder, Rachel Carter & Rachel Babbett. From Narrabourough Abigail Dow, Mary Foster & Phoebe Howland; From Dover Elizabeth Rogers, Phoebe Mearns, & Charlotte Nancy, who are all present except one.

Our beloved friend Mary Wadell from Great Britain, hath received a certificate from the N<sup>o</sup>. Meeting of Withams in Essex held at Chelmsford 4th of 13<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>. 1810 enclosed by the Quarterly Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, also one from the Meeting of Ministers and elders held in London the same year expressing their love & sympathy with her in her industrious religious engagement on this continent, which have been read to our satisfaction. — Certificates & copies of Minutes, have likewise been presented by our beloved friend Esmer Griffin.



from Purchase, Hannah G. Fida from Spaulding,  
Cannal Evans, Hannah Plim & Hannah Sims  
from Philadelphia.

We have received Epistles, from the Yearly  
Meetings of Women friends, of Philadelphia, New York  
Baltimore & Ohio, containing observations & encourage-  
ment worthy of our attention; the reading of which  
has been comforting to many minds. After con-  
sidering the subject in a spirit of great devotion, Mary  
Nichols, Mary & Robinson, Maria Secoray, Abigail  
Arnold, Betsey Furlington & Elizabeth Redman, Ruth  
Davis & Mary Hatch, to address those meetings as  
they may feel an opening therefor; in waiting for the  
answering of that Spirit which is not at any com-  
mand - We adjourn to the time at which  
men friends may conclude to meet.

Not agreeable to adjournment at the 4th hour.  
The representatives have met and agreed to  
proceed. Mary Hatch to Clerk & Abigail  
Arnold for assistant, which being united in  
they are appointed to that office.

Accounts from our respective Yearly meet-  
ings, with the Queries & Answers have been read  
& instructive remarks made, on the subjects  
thus brought before us. Lucas ~~Conner~~ Peckham  
Rebecca Dean, Elizabeth Rogers & Lydia Dean are  
appointed to prepare a summary of the answers, and  
produce at a future sitting.

We are informed that Rhode Island Yearly  
Meeting, has united with South Kingston M:  
M.G. in the adjournment of Mary & Robinson  
to the station of an elder & with Providence M:  
M.G. in attending the public appearances in the  
Ministry of Anna Almy - And that Sandwich  
& Waltham Meetings, has united with Nantucket  
M:  
M.G. North district in approving the public  
appearances in the Ministry of Sarah M. Coffin.

This meeting adjourns to the time at which men  
friends conclude to meet tomorrow.

Third day afternoon. Met



according to adjournment at the 3<sup>d</sup> Nov.

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The friends appointed have prepared a  
summary, which has been read & is as follows.

It appears by the answers that our  
Meetings for Religious Worship & Discipline are  
generally well up and attended by the largest num-  
ber of friends. Altho' we have seriously to  
observe that some are negligent in our atten-  
tion to this important duty. The hour nearly  
observed & friends mostly preserved from sloth  
& other unbecoming behaviour when assembled.

There appears a good degree of love & unity amongst  
us - there is a care to guard against division &  
to reconcile differences when they have appeared.

Many among us endeavor to cultivate those under  
their care in plainness, to lay a restraint on per-  
nicious books & who are exemplary themselves. But  
there appears a remissness in some and deviations  
therefrom are apparent. - The Holy Scriptures are  
frequently read in friends families - Morality  
and temperance are generally observed. - The cir-  
cumstances of the poor are attended to and their ne-  
cessities relieved. - There appears a care with most  
friends that proceedings respecting marriage be con-  
formable to discipline, excepting one instance of  
disorderly marriage & several who are keeping  
company on that account with those of other Socie-  
ties - Generally careful in regard to the requisi-  
tions of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> queries. There is some omission  
in recording - generally careful to procure certificates.

A good measure of care appears in dealing with  
offenders in the manner prescribed, and to place  
judgment when necessary according to discipline.

A memorial from Friend Mr. Wm. Gidd 2<sup>d</sup> of  
4<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1817 concerning our beloved deceased  
friend Elisha Thouton expressive of his great la-  
bors in the cause of truth. And one from Friend  
Mr. Wm. Gidd 2<sup>d</sup> of 11 Nov. 1816. concerning our be-  
loved aged friend Jeremiah Austin deceased.  
bearing testimony to his piety & exemplary life. There  
been none at this time. -



Eliza & the Scotch, Dorcas Brown & Sarah Russell are appointed to prepare endowments on the certificates of our friends who are with us from other yearly meetings. We adjourn to the time at which men friends may meet tomorrow morning.

Fourth day, morning. Met according to adjournment near the 10th hour -

Essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings, of Women's silence, to be read in Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore & Ohio have been read & returned to the Committee for some additions & some alterations. We adjourn to the hour at which men friends may meet this afternoon.

Fourth day afternoon. Met according to adjournment near the 4th hour -

The representatives being called, we present who attended the last sitting. The essays of epistles to other Yearly Meetings have been approved & signed.

The friends appointed have procured endowments on the certificates of our friends who are with us from other Y. J. Mts. which have been approved & signed on behalf of the Meeting. The London printed epistle containing a statutory notice has been read at the present time.

Altho' there has been less expression than usual on the state of society, as reported in the answers to the queries, friends have been advised not only to continue to give an honest account of deficiencies but that the answers be expressive in a full & explicit manner - The subject of outgoings in marriage has been particularly urged on the attention of parents & those who have young persons under their care, and they are recommended to attend a watchful & early care in this important concern, believing that when parents have their minds more devoted to the religious welfare of their children than to other duties towards them, many of these breaches in society would be prevented & through the divine blessing on their exertions, the youth would be likely to be led & prize their privileges that a disposition



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to relinquish them would rarely gain admittance into  
their minds -

Shall my observations have been made on the due  
attendance of our religious meetings with solicitude  
that we may be incensed & concerned to gather into  
true inward silence when they collected, and the rising  
generation repeatedly addressed with persuasive en-  
couragement to submit to the turning & overturn-  
ings of his divine hand, whose language remain  
the same to his visible children & jointly,  
"Bring ye all the tythes into the store house, that there  
may be meat in mine house, and prove me now  
herewith, if I will not open the windows of  
Heaven & pour you out a blessing that there shall  
not be room enough to receive it."

A deep sympathy has been ~~expressed~~ <sup>manifested</sup> for the  
exercised members of the family & instructive coun-  
sel imparted to them, with the expression of desire  
that we all endeavor to be more & more engaged  
after that great attainment "the state of a little  
child" as the only means whereby the glory of  
Lion will be enlarged & perpetuity be found  
within her palace -

Having been at times favored with a covering  
of solemnity in the course of the sittings of this  
meeting, we again gratefully acknowledge it, also  
the aid received through the exercise of our  
sisters from other yearly meetings, whose compa-  
ny & services have been satisfactory & encouraging  
to us.

The Clerk is directed to forward extractions  
these minutes & transcripts of the epistle received;  
to our several Quarterly Meetings.

We conclude to meet again, if permitted, at  
the usual time & place, next year,

Witness on behalf of our Yearly Meeting  
of Thomson Friends held on Rhode Island  
6 mo. 1817 -

Mary Retch Clerk.

From our Yearly meeting of women friends held  
on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the  
18<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo (inclusive) 1817

To the Yearly meeting of women friends to be held in Phila.

Dear Sisters

Sensibly feeling that this love of God  
is the only effectual qualification, not only for communica-  
tions of this kind, but also for every good word & work,  
we desire there may be an increasing gathering into the  
heavenly life. Being convinced that many  
among us professing much, are yet ignorant of the  
divine reality of that pure life, which is hid from  
the spirit and temper of this world with Christ in God,  
we are concerned to recommend an inward attention to the  
operation and effects of good and evil in the soul: for  
while they continue to contend, the mind not yielding  
to either so fully as to know a victory, is kept toss-  
ed as with tempests, afflicted and not comforted. For  
the advancement of such we desire that they may  
learn what this meaneth, "I will have mercy and  
not sacrifice" - that they may learn it by ceasing the  
enquiry, "Wherewith shall I come before the Lord  
or how myself before the High God?" and simply  
turning to what they so abundantly know of his will, &  
willing to believe in this, that he hath shewed them  
what is good, and that a most essential effect of  
this knowledge of what is good, is, to walk humbly  
with their God - Believing it is in this, and not in  
being careful to walk humbly among men, that his  
attributes are made manifest in the flesh; - and  
herein we come to be Christians, having the spirit  
and temper of Christ without which we are none  
of his. For this dear friends we should be  
branches of the living Vine, and abiding therein,  
we should have a living faith, which faith would  
become perfected by corresponding works. Therefore all  
mixture of self-seeking being removed we should  
have clear vision to behold the stones of the true  
Church laid with fair colors, and her foundations  
with sapphires; - here would be a pure medium  
thru which the heavenly light would come to us,



giving lustre to all the actions of our lives; and these being all performed in the will and for the glory of our Creator, would sweetly fulfill the prophecy, that "all her borders were of pleasant stones".

Before we conclude we would offer a word of strengthening import to a state which in the purifying process of redemption often disarms the traveller, and in which there is great danger of casting away the shield of faith as tho' there had never been an anointing with the holy oil. Whosoever amongst you may be in this state, we would that they might rest their all in this, that all the feelings of the Lord are consistent with his nature which is Love. And it is not because he is estranged from us that he thus operates, but because we having become estranged from him, have need of this to bring us back.

Thus may you quietly submit, and let him work by his love, in separating the tares from the wheat until the whole heart shall be clean; — that so, she may be called "beloved, who was not beloved"; — and that out of a state of self-abasement, which for a time may be fitly likened to the dark region of the grave and shadow of death, the "horn of David" may be "and ascribe all honor to him who is Alpha and Omega the bright and morning star!"

We acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable Epistle, and are your sisters —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting  
Mary Proctor Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on  
Whore Lane by adjournments from the 16<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo  
to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1817

To the next Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held in  
New York

Dear Friends  
In acknowledging the receipt of your acceptable Epistle of the present year we feel nearly united to those amongst you who are brought under the operation of the principles of Truth and who are at seasons made willing to part with every sin which opposes its dominion in the heart.  
Since it is nothing short of Divine Love which humbles

and reduces us in every way may we be willing wholly  
to resign ourselves to this inward work of purification,  
and instead of looking abroad in the world for subjects  
of rejoicing or objects to deplore, let us keep our eyes  
single to that which as we can bear it shows us  
what we really are; and gradually leading the mind  
out of darkness and uncertainty, will prepare it to  
receive that knowledge of the Lord, which, in propor-  
tion to our obedience, will cover the earth in our  
hearts even as the waters cover the sea.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting  
Mary Kotter Clerk -

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held at  
Rhode Island from the 16<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the  
18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1817 -

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held in  
Baltimore

Dear sisters

Notwithstanding we feel that  
we have no ability of our own for any good word or  
work, and are sensible that without divine assistance  
we can do nothing availingly, yet we believe as this  
state is truly experienced it will doubtless best qualify  
us to labor acceptably in the Lord's vineyard, whether  
in an individual or collective capacity. And as the  
current of God's love flows only in this channel,  
not circumscribed to time or place, but diffusing itself  
"from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends  
of the earth," may we all be engaged rightly to seek  
after a portion of its ~~great~~ quickening animating  
influence, and thereby become enabled to serve our  
Creator in our day and generation to his praise and  
our own lasting benefit.

And may those who  
are in the morning of life be willing to make a  
full surrender of themselves to the holy discipline  
of the cross of ~~the~~ Christ. It will dear young friends  
do much for you; as you become subservient to its  
divine teachings, and are willing to leave whatever  
is manifested as an obstruction to the heavenly work,  
you will indeed be as "a crown of glory in the hand  
of the Lord, and a royal Diadem in the hand of  
our God"; affording the consoling prospect that when  
the present barren beavers are removed from the



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Church Militant to the Church triumphant in Heaven, there will be a succession of standard bearers. Believing there are of this description both with you and us, we fervently desire that they may persevere in the line of divine appointment. — Altho' our meeting has not been as large as at some past seasons, yet some of the sittings have been immeasurably aided by the overshadowing of the Divine Presence, and many devoted servants have been favored with ability to labor fervently for the promotion of the precious Cause, the prosperity of Zion and the enlargement of her borders. The receipt of your acceptable Epistle was truly animating, exciting in some of our minds a desire that we may indeed be mutually instrumental in "stirring up the pure mind by way of remembrance."

We conclude your sisters

Signed on behalf of the meeting

Mary Pateh Clark

From our Yearly meeting of women friends held on Rhode Island from the 16<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo to the 18<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1817

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held at W<sup>th</sup> Hartford this

Dear sisters

We have at this time acceptably received the salutation of your regard, and may acknowledge you have been brought near in our remembrance before this present occasion, which desires that when the way should open for epistolary communications we might be enabled to encourage each other in the work of our day.

And we have renewedly felt that it is a precious privilege to be sensible of the circulation of that love which breathes for the preservation of every member of the one great family however distant their allotments. And seeing we

are called upon to advance in holiness, we desire that every good resolution, every pious endeavor may gather strength by our persevering in a watchful seeking state; ever keeping in view the need we have of faith and hourly waiting at Wisdom's Gate, since we know not at what moment it may please the Helper of his



people to arise for our instruction and with healing  
in his wings. May none draw back or relax  
in their concern for a continual increased acquaint-  
ance with this quickening power whereby we can  
alone become conquerors over the spirit of the  
world which is at enmity with God.

Your expressions of sympathy with those in  
solitary situations have met a corresponding  
feeling in many of our minds, having often to view  
some of these as deeply exercised travellers who  
have to encounter various difficulties and dis-  
couragements without receiving the strengthening  
aid of baptized members of the same body.

May these be comforted in believing that the journey  
of their spirits is an acceptable sacrifice to the Father  
of mercies, and we would that they might be anima-  
ted with hope that as no night exercise is lost, it  
will in due time prevail, and procure them a  
comforting evidence that their adoption is sealed in  
the book of life.

We are encouraged to believe  
that the number is gradually increasing of such  
as are concerned to depart from every thing which  
tends to bondage, among whom we may include  
some of our beloved young sisters who are also  
endeavoring to know the everlasting Truth to set  
them free.

Our several sittings have been  
attended with a comfortable degree of solemnity  
and under a thankful sense thereof we remain  
your friends

Signed on behalf of the Meeting  
Mary Potch. Clk-



At a Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on  
Rhode Island 15<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month 1818.

The representatives are from Rhode Island Dorcas  
Perkham Hannah Dennis Dorcas Brown Sarah Greene  
Mary Spencer & Mary Carl - from Salem Lydia Dean  
Lais Philbrick Anna Dow & Rebecca Darn - from  
Swanwick Maria Perival Eliz<sup>th</sup> Barker Rhoda Thayer  
Anna Macomber Roby Thayer & Susanna Jordan -  
from Salisbury Mary Reed & Esther Cobb - from Smith  
field Mary Dutton Avis Greene Mary Betty Hannah  
Hodder and Patience Carl - from Vassaboro' Hannah  
Shearer Sarah Threlkeld & Hannah Sampson - from  
Dover Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rogers Abigail Darn & Comfort Hoag -  
except those for whose absence satisfactory  
reasons have been given -

Our beloved friend Eliz<sup>th</sup> Coggeshall  
being now with us has produced a Certificate from York  
monthly meeting endorsed by the Quarterly meeting of  
Westbury dated in 4<sup>th</sup> month last expressive of their unity  
with her in her concerns to attend this Yearly Meeting  
and the particular meetings belonging hereto - Our friend  
Margaret Marriott has also presented an extract from  
the minutes of Hudson monthly meeting expressive of  
their unity with her in respect of accompanying Eliz<sup>th</sup>  
Coggeshall which have been read at the present time.  
Accounts from our respective Quarterly meetings with  
answers to the queries have been read - We adjourn  
to 10 o'clock at which some friends may meet this af-  
ternoon - Met by adjournment near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour -  
The representatives propose Mary Ratch for Clerk &  
Alice Rathbone assistant Clerk, which being voted with  
they are accordingly appointed. We have received  
Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of women friends held  
in London Philadelphia York Baltimore & Ohio, the  
hearing of which has been comforting to many minds -  
Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rowman Avis Thorne Abigail Arnold Mary Dutton  
Patience Carl Lais Philbrick Anna Abigail Deborah His  
Rachel Davis Dorcas Brown Rebecca Dean Mary Carl  
Lydia Dean & Betsey Thayer are appointed to receive  
assays of Epistles to their Yearly Meetings as they may  
receive anything from the spring of life for communi-  
cation. Hannah Collins Sarah Russell & Rebecca  
Wing are appointed to prepare a summary from the



answers to the queries and produce at a future sitting. —  
We are informed from Sandwich Quarterly meeting that  
they have approved the ministry of Tabitha Gifford Susan  
na Swift and Mary Gard — from Falmouth that they  
have approved the ministry of Phoebe Cobb Jr — from  
Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting that Anna Anthony &  
Susanna Hathaway are appointed to the Station of  
Elders — from Smithfield that Lavinia Southwick  
and Lydia Allen, and from Passabasso Lydia Nicholls,  
are appointed to the station of Elders — We adjourn  
to the time at which men friends may meet tomorrow  
— 3<sup>rd</sup> day afternoon — met near the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour —

The friends appointed have prepared a summary which  
has been read — Phoebe Perival & Maria A Robinson are  
appointed to prepare certificates for the certificates of  
our friends who are with us from North Yarmouth Meeting.

We adjourn to the same hour at which men friends  
may meet tomorrow — 4<sup>th</sup> day morning met near

the 10<sup>th</sup> hour — Being informed that the boarding school  
about to be established by this year's meeting will prob-  
ably be opened in the course of the present year, Dorcas  
Brown Mary W Allen Lydia Dean Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman Man-  
nah Sheper Abigail Darnes & Mary Reed are desired to  
deliberate on the subject and procure such friends from  
our respective Quarterly Meetings as may appear to them  
suitable to join the men's committee in the cause of  
the proposed institution. — Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman & Rhoda

Howland are appointed to prepare a certificate for our  
friend Mary Wapell addressed to the monthly Quarterly  
& Yearly meetings from which her name produced last  
year — An Epistle read to the Yearly Meeting of  
women friends held in Baltimore has been approved &  
signed — The London printed Epistle has been read at  
the present time —

We adjourn to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon  
4<sup>th</sup> day afternoon — met near the hour adjourned to —

The representatives present who attended the first sitting.

The friends appointed to select a boarding school committee  
have proposed a number of names who with the addition  
of those who were desired to select them are accord-  
ingly appointed - viz: Hannah Sheper Sarah Howland  
Mary Reed Abigail Darnes Comfort Love Lydia Joy  
Betsey Perival Hannah Collins Eunice Collins Rebecca  
Dean Elmina Verhulst Lydia Dean Lois Whitbrick Han-  
nah Dennis Mary Williams Abigail Arnold Mary A  
Robinson Dorcas Deekham, Anna Almy Ruth Rodman  
Dorcas Brown



Rhoda Howland Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman Ruth Davis Mary Cand  
Phoebe Percival Susanna Gardner Phoebe Thayer & Patience  
Carl Mary to Ellen Avis Thine Abigail and Eliza Kath-  
lone. — The friends appointed have produced Epistles  
to the Quaker Meetings of our new friends Ld in London  
Ohio New York & Ohio which are approved and signed —

Endorsements are prepared to be inserted on the Certificates  
of our friends Eliz<sup>th</sup> Tappan & Margaret Channing whose  
company and services have been truly acceptable to us  
at this time. A Certificate on behalf of our friend  
Mary Knappell has been approved and signed.

Among the subjects that have excited concern in  
hearing the answers to the Queries, the want of dwelling  
under that influence which would preserve from a spirit  
of Detraction, has been feelingly lamented; and we have been  
admonished to lay our mouths as in the dust and be  
humble, rather than dwell on the failings and imperfec-  
tions of others, for he that ascends into the hill of the  
Lord, and standeth in his holy place, hath clean hands  
and a pure heart. In observing a few instances of  
the too great use of spirituous liquors, desires have been  
expressed for those who are liable to such a weakness,  
that they be exceedingly watchful over themselves not by  
little and little, that which is imagined to be necessary,  
should prove their ruin — And that all friends be  
particularly careful to discourage the practice of unneces-  
sarily using any kind of opiate, from a just sense of  
its serious consequences. — The mind is blessing that  
sensibility to the visitations of the divine spirit which  
in the redemption of the soul is effected. We have  
been recommended to greater vigilance in administering  
to the necessities of the poor, in obeying those feelings  
which direct us to seek out the really destitute and in-  
firm, whether within the limits of our own society or  
not, remembering that we have nothing which we can  
truly call our own; and when we conclude we have  
nothing to spare, that we limit our expenses in clothing,  
in the furniture of our houses and tables, in order to  
be able to discharge our part-individually of this impor-  
tant duty. — The Clerk is directed to forward trans-  
cripts of the Epistles received from other Yearly meetings,  
and Extracts from these minutes to our respective  
Quarterly Meetings — We conclude to meet again if  
permitted at the usual time and place next year. —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> mo 17<sup>th</sup> 1818 —

c Mary Rotch Clerk.

From our Yearly Meetings of women friends held on  
Rhode Island by adjournments from the 15<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> mo to  
the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1818 —

To the next Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held in  
Brookfield

(Believing it right dear sisters that our  
epistolary correspondence should be continued, we feel renewedly  
desirous that in every essay to communicate there  
may be a strict attention to the inexhaustible sources whence  
all good springs — that a faithful examination may take  
place with us, that nothing be brought forth as counsel  
out of the treasury of the heart but what has been freely  
given by the great treasurer, who alone can furnish things  
new and old, which having his holy sanction and blessing  
will not fail to profit, however small the offering may be)  
reaching to the life in every heart, for without this, we  
are sensible words will prove but as sounding brass or  
a tinkling cymbal. Therefore it is our earnest solici-  
tude that every one with you and us concerned to advo-  
cate the cause of Truth, may steadfastly abide and endure  
the purifying operations of the Divine hand, until all  
be done away that his holy controversy is with — that  
such may come forth with brightness, having the sure  
seal that they are the true Children of Him who up-  
holdeth all his, and who is able to prepare them to  
stand as on a sea of glass mingled with fire; having  
known his power to overcome all that is creaturely in  
them, they will be enabled to render unto him the  
praise and glory due to his great name.

While we rejoice in the prospect of an increasing concern  
among some of the dear Youth who are measurably yielding to  
the influence of Divine truth on their minds, we feel deeply  
solicitous that those to whom their views are turned for  
examples may not administer discouragement but <sup>that</sup> by  
being living members of the Militant Church they may  
hold forth the animating language "Follow us as we  
follow Christ," convincing that to those who are willing to  
submit to his righteous government his Yoke is easy and his  
burden light. We may acknowledge the receipt of your accept-  
able Epistle of the present year has been strengthening to some of  
our minds — and in a measure of that love which breathes  
for the prospering of Zion and the enlargement of her borders  
we bid you farewell and are your sisters — Signed on behalf of the Meet-  
Mary Rotch Clerk



From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on Rhode Island by a journey from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo inclusive 1818 — To the Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held in Philadelphia —

Dear sisters

It is we trust in a degree of that love which wisheth well to all, that we attempt to address you at this time. — To you dear sisters who are of the flock and family of the Shepherd of souls, the language is, be ye steadfast, striving together for the faith; — bearing one another's burdens, that he who hath begun a good work in any of us, is able to perfect it to his praise — that he is not only the Shepherd and Leader, but also the Father of the tried stones elect and precious — in the shaking of the old Heavens and the old Earth, we may witness deep firings, yet if we continue on the right foundation the Rock on which the true Church is built, the gates of Hell shall not be able to prevail against it — but we shall in due time experience the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls — May we therefore be preserved from shrinking from the cross of suffering! — is it not enough for the Disciple that he be as his master and the servant as his Lord? who was made, perfect thro' suffering. — And may there be a willingness in every part of the family to submit to the portion of labor assigned, whether it be to sit as silent travellers, or publicly to espouse the cause of truth with meekness and fear — May we have a single eye to the honor of God — for should any of us in these solemn duties have our own honor in view, how would it eclipse the heavenly lustre, and cause that which might have been as incense and a pure offering to be unacceptable in his holy sight — And for you dear sisters who are of the rising generation, we feel the language of encouragement come fast, and we say, "the Lord is good," assuredly believing, that tho' conflict may at seasons attend you, yet as you are willing to resign all that is in controversy with the truth and follow diligently him who hath called you, you will experience his yoke to be indeed easy and his burden light, every mountain of opposition will be removed before you, and your feet will be established in righteousness. We are sensible that many dangers and temptations await you and that nothing short of a vigilant and watchful attention to the openings of light, with an implicit obedience thereto, can lead and preserve you in the path of true holiness. — We have received your acceptable letter of 15<sup>th</sup> mo last which has been ~~very~~ grateful to our minds and with feelings of sisterly regard we bid you farewell.

Signed on behalf of the meeting Mary Kotch Clark.

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on Rhode-  
Island from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month inclusive 1818 --  
To the Yearly meeting of women friends to be held at  
Haverhill Mass. This

Some of our minds dear sisters have  
been clothed with vision that in seeking to promote the  
cause of truth we may not be drawn forth in expres-  
sion beyond that depth of feeling which can alone render  
our endeavors acceptable in the Divine sight, or the  
interchange of these communications a blessing to the Church.  
That may we dwell low, every one attending to their own gift  
however small in its appearance: believing that the right  
improvement thereof will amply satisfy all thus  
engaged, to fill up their several allotments, and suitable  
standard bearers will thereby be raised to occupy the seats  
of those recently removed from works to rewards, one whose  
account some of our minds have been bowed, under a deep sense  
of the Church's loss -- And may there continue to be, both  
with you and us an increasing concern to seek first the  
Kingdom of Heaven, and the righteousness thereof, which  
would so season the mind with the savor of truth as  
to convince those over whom our influence may have a  
powerful bearing, embracing that true doctrine which not  
embraces a lively active principle from which is derived  
the happiness of man -- How desirable then to attend to  
the intimation conveyed thro' this Prophet, in quietness  
and in confidence shall be your strength, which implies  
a silent waiting for the arising of that life in the soul  
which leads captivity captive, and introduces into an holy  
communion where spiritual prayer is enjoyed, and there  
is a partaking in substance of that bread which the  
world knows not of. -- As there is an exclusive depen-  
dence upon this heavenly food, not desiring any thing to  
be conveyed thro' the medium of the <sup>outward</sup> senses, the mind becomes  
enriched with the increase of God, and finds that all its  
springs are in Him. The appearance of many of our  
young friends <sup>at this time</sup> has exhibited that increasing simplicity, and quiet  
interested attention, that has proved a strength & encouragement  
to those in more advanced age, believing there will be added from  
this part of the family however remotely situated those compa-  
rable to "the tower of David, whereon hang a thousand bucklers  
all shields of mighty men". -- Your acceptable salutation  
of 9<sup>th</sup> mo last has been read at this time to our satisfaction  
and with a grateful sense that the Lord continueth  
to preserve from the noise of the archers in the places  
of drawing water those that walk by the way we remain  
your friends -- Signed on behalf of the meeting

Mary Pitch Clerk



From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on  
Rhode Island from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> inclusive  
1818 — To the Yearly Meeting of women friends to  
be held in Baltimore —

Dear friends

We feel renewedly sensible that unless our  
minds are properly centred in a state of indwelling  
with the pure principles of Truth, we are liable to be  
misled by the impulse of that affection which may  
arise from the natural part — and however good it  
may appear, not having the salt of the Kingdom, the  
savor of Life, we may be warmed thereby, but the result  
will prove like the effects of sparks of our own kindling.  
To be preserved therefrom must be increasingly desirable  
to those who having lived in a world of darkness and  
spirit, know in their own experience, that it is here and  
here only, that they can gain free access to the source of  
Love, and feel their strength renewed — It is in this  
situation, however obscure the path may be to human  
view that the mysteries of Godliness are revealed, the  
soul becomes purified, and united to the Church of Christ.  
And as the members of this Society are sometimes permitted  
thro' the influence of that virtue which is derived from  
its Holy Head, to feel interested in the welfare of  
another, and are made instrumental in encouraging the  
progress of Zion's travellers, we tenderly desire that there  
may be a continual engagement to continue — that as  
the branch cannot bear fruit except it abide in the vine,  
so neither can we, unless we abide in the Gift of God in  
our own hearts — Thus it is that we are brought by  
degrees into a conformity to his likeness — and all our  
movements will be in that beautiful simplicity and  
order which characterises his children.

To a class who may thro' disobedience have been  
induced to partake of those indulgencies from which we  
are called upon to be separate; and who are sensible that  
they are not in a state of acceptance, yet are not so  
far removed from the Divine notice but that they un-  
derstand the language, where art thou? — They are  
counsel not to cloath themselves with any thing like  
a fig-leaf covering, or to shut their eyes; but to commit  
themselves into the arms of his mercy, who speaketh  
in righteousness and is mighty to save — May they  
hearken to his voice and yield to his discipline — and  
tho' they may have to pass thro' the furnace of affliction,  
and dispensations comparable to the burning of a  
consuming fire, if they patiently endure, they will be

brought here forth therefrom, old things having passed away, all things become new, and all of God! —

The reading of your acceptable Epistle has administered encouragement to our minds, and we decline to salute those of every class who are endeavoring to stand in their attachment with the language of "Be ye faithful unto death and ye shall receive a crown of life" —

Signed on behalf of the meeting

Mary Rotch, Clerk —

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month 1818.

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends to be held in London.

Dear friends

Some of our minds have been renewedly impressed with the necessity of dwelling near the shrine of divine life, carefully watching and patiently waiting for its arising, that we may not lose the opportunity of receiving strength and instruction from that source which we are mercifully permitted to experience to be not only pure but inexhaustible. In a view of the infinite consideration which opens to man this source of intelligence, our hearts are bowed in humble gratitude, commending his goodness who visits in mercy, in order to gather souls unto himself, to cause us eminently to partake of his free gift, diffusing light and knowledge, whereby we are led thro' obedience into that conformity to his will which may tend to glorify him. It is cause of deep concern that one of our members should continue regardless of the manifestations of divine grace, and content themselves with a profession of the ever blessed Truth without experiencing its quickening effect. We feel for their on various accounts; we lament their loss of so great consolation as that which attends the



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faithful regenerated mind; we mourn the want of their  
example in families and in the Church, and we  
and our brethren with solemn affection invite  
to that season when they may receive warning in-  
structions that time to them is near the close,  
when the recollection of indifference to the great  
ratio of religion in consequences of neglecting early  
instructions may rise with awful weight of con-  
demnation. O that their with you and us might  
become aware of their desolate and sinful state and  
with true Christian zeal enter upon that warfare  
which we are all bound to maintain. — These  
need not hesitate, they need not fear, altho' it be as  
"the eleventh hour" and the accumulated weight of  
disobedience may seem an insuperable bar to their  
reconciliation — Yet there is cause to hope for  
the revealing of Almighty power when the mind  
awakened to its eternal interest can thus appeal,  
Thou knowest O Lord that my soul bows before  
thee, in desire to come under thy righteous govern-  
ment; make me of thine house where I may  
receive the sustaining evidence of the love.  
Then there will the affections be changed, instead  
of desolation the fruits of the spirit will appear  
and ability be received at seasons to rejoice in the  
new creation, which being of God will praise  
his ever constant name.

Your lively Epistle of the last year hath  
we trust administered encouragement to the  
sincerely concerned, and tho' our annual Assembly  
is not as large as usual, we have to acknowledge  
the prevalence of that solemnity wherein the  
exercised have witnessed a renewal of strength.

In Christ's love we conclude and remain  
your friends — signed on behalf of the Brethren  
Mary Potit Clerk

Anti-Slavery Meeting of women friends held on Rhode  
Island by adjournment 6<sup>th</sup> month 18<sup>th</sup> 1819

Representatives for Rhode Island Sarah Fowler,  
Mary A. Robinson, Eliz<sup>th</sup> Congdon, Anna Almy, Constance  
Hawmill & Sarah Searle - for Falmouth Thankful  
Hussey, Phoebe Cobb & Eliz<sup>th</sup> Allen - Salem Lydia Brice,  
Anne Sewhall & Ruth Bassett - Worcester Elizabeth  
Rodman, Lydia Hussey, Abigail Gibbs, Esther Stewart,  
Sarah Wood & Eunice Mitchell - Smithfield Elizabeth  
Smith, Sarah Shove, Lydia Gates & Lydia Allen - Vassalboro  
rough none - Dover Abigail Dames, Anna Wendall,  
Mary T. Brown and Sarah Beecher. ~~all~~ present -  
Our friends Eliz<sup>th</sup> Mather, Ruth Hallock & Margaret  
Judge accompanied by <sup>our friends</sup> Sarah Sutton, Sarah C. Hull,  
& Margaret Brooke from New York & Baltimore  
They meeting with us at this time producing  
Certificates from their respective meetings expressive  
of unity with their prospect of attending this Yearly  
meeting and meetings within its limits as truth  
may direct.

Accounts from our respective  
quarterly meetings and Epistles from this Yearly meet-  
ings of women friends held in Philadelphia & York  
Baltimore & Ohio have been read - after considering  
the subject Mary B. Allen, Hannah Collins, Lydia,  
Dean, Anna Almy, Avis Keen, Mary Sewhall,  
Susan Howland, Betsey Minston, Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman,  
Lucas Bond & Ruth Parker are appointed to pre-  
pare essays of Epistles to those Yearly Meetings should  
any thing be given them for communication -  
We adjourn to the hour at which men friends may  
meet this afternoon.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day afternoon - met near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour.  
The representatives propose Mary A. Robinson for Clerk  
and Rebecca Winy assistant Clerk which is united  
consent. The queries and answers have been read.  
Officers proposed Mary A. Robinson & Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rogers are  
appointed to prepare a summary of the Answers.  
We adjourn to the time at which men friends may  
meet tomorrow.



3<sup>rd</sup> Day afternoon - met near the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour -

The General Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of friends held in London has been read at this time -

Carrie Whitehall Lydia Plummer & Mary Tessa are appointed to prepare endorsements for the certificates of our friends who are with us from other Yearly Meetings.

The Boarding School committee report that the institution has been opened and thus far satisfactorily conducted - Mary B Allen Hannah Collins Anne A. Robinson & Anna May are desired to select a number of names and propose to this meeting as a committee for the ensuing year - We adjourn to the time at which new friends may meet tomorrow -

4<sup>th</sup> Day morning met near the 10<sup>th</sup> hour -

The committee have produced essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of women friends held in Philadelphia Baltimore & Ohio - Also one written to the Yearly Meeting of women friends held in Virginia which have been approved & signed -

The friends appointed have prepared a summary which is as follows -

On comparing the accounts received from our different quarters it appears that our meetings for worship and discipline are generally attended by most of our members except a few small meetings omitted in consequence of inclement weather - Neglect is apparent in the attendance of those on week days. The hour observed - and friends mostly preserved from unbecoming behavior - Love and unity in a good degree maintained - there is an engagement to many minds to guard against detraction - when differences have arisen endeavors have been used to end them - Many are concerned for the right education of youth, and are exemplifying themselves - yet deficiencies appear, and an earlier restraint is recommended - The Holy Scriptures are generally read in our families -

Moderation and temperance mostly observed -

The circumstances of the poor are inspected and measurably relieved — A general care is manifested for proceedings with respect to marriage being conformable to Discipline — when deviations appear care is extended — Our Testimonies included included in the 4<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Queries are generally maintained — A concern is manifested to deal with offenders and to place judgment according to Discipline.

The names proposed as a Boarding School Committee are: Eliz<sup>th</sup> Rodman Dorcas Brown Susanna Freeborn Eunice Mitchell Avis Keene Mary Buffington Lydia Breed Rhoda Howland Lydia Dean Eliz<sup>th</sup> Barker Anna Robeson Mercy Dockray Phoebe Cobb Ruth Rodman Phoebe Holden Mary B Allen Letitia Anthony Hannah Collins Mary A Robinson Anna Blum; which are united with and they appointed to that service for ensuing year.

We adjourn to the 5<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon — 4<sup>th</sup> day afternoon, next week the 5<sup>th</sup> hour.

Representatives present. A concern having been felt to address a few lines to Vassalborough Quarterly Meeting, a communication expressive thereof has been approved and signed. We are informed from Dover Quarterly Meeting that they have approved the ministry of Charles Cheever — from Salem Quarterly Meeting that Betitia Ladd is appointed to the Station of an Elder — from Rhode Island Amy Hannah & Lybil Reynolds, — from Smithfield Nathaniel Carl & Rachel Carl are appointed to the Station of Elders and from Sandwich that Eunice Mitchell Grace Davis & Mary Astor are appointed to that station. Endorsements have been produced for the certificates of our friends who are with us from other Yearly Meetings expressive of their company & religious labors having been acceptable to us.

The several evidences of deficiency in living conformable to the rules of our society as reported in the Answers to the Queries have claimed the attention



of many minds, and much solicitude has been expressed for an increase of watchfulness on the part of our members. While we are not anxious to connect our respective meetings the substance of this concern in many words, we feel alone desirous that our attention may be individually turned to that revelation of the Father's will in our own souls which will remove every thing out of the way that obstructs the coming of his Spiritual Kingdom. — For unless we surrender our whole hearts to those purifying operations which will make old things pass away, all things become new, and all of God, we believe the repeated re-enactment of particular Tribes will be unavailing — But as the mind is disposed to turn to the living word at the moment of gracious invitation, we shall find it to be a truth that in the day of his power his people are a willing people, that his yoke is easy and his burden light.

We have also been admonished solemnly to enquire within ourselves on what foundation we are building, whether on Rock or on the sand — whether the cement of our building is composed of the spirit and temper of this world in its various influences on the human mind, or whether it is the love of God against which nothing can prevail. We rejoice in believing that there are among the younger part of society as well as others those who are coming under the refining baptizing power of Divine love who know the benefit of the cups of suffering and are submissive receiving it at their Father's hand — There as they endure all his dispensations with also know the simple heavenly state of a little Child, they even shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation — And the advice has been to us individually ~~and~~ wait and listen for the still small voice that speaketh in the secret of the soul — attend to Divine direction in little simple services. Be faithful and be Blessed. —

The Clerk is directed to forward Transcripts of Epistles received and extracts from these writings to our several Quarterly meetings — We conclude to meet again if permitted at the usual time & place next year — Signed on behalf of the Meeting  
C. H. W. 16th 1879. Mary Foster Clerk —



Brown our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on  
Rhode Island by adjournments from the 14<sup>th</sup> to  
the 16<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month inclusive 1819 —

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends held in Phila.  
Dear Sisters

Having been sensible in some of our  
sittings of the solemnizing influence of Divine Love  
we gratefully acknowledge the unmerited favor, and  
desire to be found in watchfulness and prayer, that  
the saving gift of grace may be more and more  
unfolded within us, and by its simple attention thereto  
we may experience its blessed effects in manifesting  
the depth of our misery when alienated from a  
sense of its refining operations and become strength-  
ened to yield up all that opposes its purifying  
progress in our hearts — that abiding in the teachable  
state which breathes only for the perfecting of the  
Divine Will, we may happily know all our works  
wrought in God, and be enabled to call him Our  
Father. How then in the capacity of obedient-  
children shall we have fellowship one with  
another, and be prepared to rejoice in each others  
advancement in the Truth. Confirming to the  
weak will be the evidence of Christian love  
abounding amongst us, to the comfort of the  
faithful, and the influence of pious example  
lead to the enlargement of our borders. That  
these things may be unitedly realized is the  
 fervent breathing of some of our spirits, accompa-  
nied with a belief that Infinite Goodness is near  
to perfect the work of his own redeeming Power.

We crave that this efficacious principle may  
not only have room to prosper in those of  
riper years, but that also amongst the dear  
children there may be increased attention to  
those directions warnings and checks which  
arise in their tender minds that so they may  
also be sensible of that peace which flows  
from submission to the intimations of our  
Heavenly Father's love. We have the satisfaction



to acknowledge the receipt of your Epistle of the 4<sup>th</sup> month last and are your friends

Signed on behalf of the meeting

Mary Rotch 6th

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo 1819 - To the Yearly Meeting of Women friends held in New York.

Dear Sisters

I'm being dipped into a feeling for the state of the seed of the Heavenly Kingdom amongst those in our own borders, the minds of some are arched toward you, with living desires, we trust, to greet you in a measure of that fellowship which springs from a pure source, and leads us to come that thro' diligent attention to the seasons effect of Grace in the heart, hindering that which is much of the human will, we may know the Divine Life to arise and obtain Dominion whereby every crown may be laid down at the revealing of his power, who will not give his glory to another nor his Praise to graven images.

Various and specious are the temptations to relax in watchfulness against the encroachment of things that may dim the spiritual eye which thro' merciful visitations may have been opened. We tenderly desire that such both with you & us may be renewedly favored with the quickening influences of that word which tho' sharp and powerful wounds only to heal, and will as we fully submit to its operations cleanse the floor of our hearts, and prepare a place for the Holy One to abide in. We shall then be enabled rejoicingly to say "In the way of thy Judgment have we waited for thee O! God" to whom be-  
longeth glory & strength.

The reading of your acceptable Epistle hath been acceptable to us, and we cordially receive the evidences of Christian love in the expression of your desires for a serious attention to the important Duties of Mothers, and much desire that a qualification may be individually sought after to prepare



the way of the Lord in the infant mind, that his  
paths may be made straight, and the rejoicing  
of the faithful increased by beholding the children  
walking in the Law.

With desires for our mutual advancement  
in Holiness we are your friends

Signed on behalf of the Meeting Mary Roteb. Clerk

From our Yearly meeting of women friends held on  
Rhode Island from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of Oct. 1819.  
To the Yearly meeting of women friends held at Baltimore.  
Dear Sisters.

We feel a renewal of that love which  
desires the prosperity of Zion and the enlargement  
of her borders, and salute you at this time under  
impressions important to us as brotherly spiri-  
tually minded people. The Day seems to call for  
greater dedication to the work of rebuilding our walls  
and altho' dear friends there is cause for deep  
dwellings with the suffering <sup>and</sup> the baptisms of  
the dear Master are meted out to his exercised  
children in the Church, yet may there be fresh  
courage to labor under his holy banner, becoming  
humbled before him, sitting at his feet and learning  
of him - that he may thus condescend to ~~partly~~  
qualify and prepare the temple of our minds for  
his pure spirit - (watching unto prayer being  
experienced by us) that in these solemn gather-  
ings we may know our refreshing to come from  
the presence of the Lord who alone is worthy  
to worship, and who dwells in us, and  
that of the Spirit. There are we trust a  
living remnant preserved whose concern remains  
for the increase of vital religion. They shall  
write their prayers for the general good and  
increase of the spiritual Church, abounding in  
grace, producing fruits of righteousness, peace  
and joy in the holy Ghost. We have had  
the company of beloved sisters from distant  
Yearly meetings whose labors of love have been  
acceptable to us - Some Epistle of last Year  
was read at this time to satisfaction

Signed on behalf of the meeting

Mary Roteb. Clerk



From our Yearly meeting of Women friends  
held on Rhode Island from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>  
of 6<sup>th</sup> month 1847. —

To the Yearly Meeting of women friends held  
at Mount Pleasant Ohio —

Dear sisters

In attempting to acknowledge the  
reception of your acceptable Epistle of 9<sup>th</sup> inst.  
last we are renewedly humbled under a sense  
of our dependence on the source of all that is  
substantially good — yet are encouraged in the  
evidence accompanying our minds of the suffi-  
ciency of Divine grace, and of the immediate  
help vouchsafed to the truly dedicated servants of  
the Lord, — who feel their minds strengthened to  
bear the burden, as in the heat of the day, who  
are willing to suffer even unto death with the  
animating assurance of our Dear Lord, I will  
appoint unto you a Kingdom. May these  
help our their way and by the persuasive lan-  
guage of example influence the minds of those  
who are turning their faces Lion-wards, to  
follow them as they are endeavoring to follow  
Christ the Shepherd of Israel. — that under the  
refining power of his love operating on their  
minds, they may happily experience the tem-  
ple of their hearts consecrated to him the living  
God. We humbly trust it is in that love,  
which breathes peace on earth & goodwill to  
men that we tenderly invite those who are  
in the early walks of life to enter the vine-  
yard and labor — feelingly can we testify with  
many faithful laborers that the reward is  
sure, and the fruits pleasant to our taste.

Tho' the covering of some of our spirits  
at this time on various accounts hath been  
that of mourning, yet we are encouraged to  
believe that there are many hidden ex-  
ercised minds who feel a deep interest in the  
promotion of the Cause of Truth, and even  
amongst the youthful part of our Society there  
who are rightly concerned and disposed justly



to appreciate the privileges they enjoy, who under  
the preparatory hand may yet shine in the  
beauty of holiness. Finally may our  
minds from season to season be clothed with  
the mantle of love one toward another  
sensibly realizing that without this distinguish-  
ing mark of Discipleship we are not known  
as followers of Him who hath said I love  
of me who am meek and low of heart.  
May we all thro' faithful perseverance in  
well-doing eventually secure the Crown im-  
mortal, resting in the promises of his love  
which are from everlasting to everlasting.

In a feeling of sisterly regard we are your friend

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Mary Dutton Clark.

From our Yearly Meeting of women friends  
held on Rhode Island from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the  
16<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month 1819 -

To the Yearly meeting of women friends  
in Virginia -

Dear Sisters

Some of our minds have been in-  
troduced into a feeling of sympathy with you,  
and notwithstanding the deficiencies apparent  
amongst us, and the need we have of help, yet  
an extension of solicitude has been witnessed for  
the encouragement of the rightly exercised within  
your borders. Unto the precious principle of  
Love manifested in the secret of the heart  
may we become increasingly gathered - Under  
its influence the humble devoted soul realizes  
the fulfilment of this promise, that one  
shall chase a thousand and two put ten thousand  
to flight. Altho' many obstructions may  
be met occasioned by peculiar circumstances  
surrounding even to the honest hearted yet as  
patience is abode in, and a renewal of faith  
experienced, the who is the resurrection and the  
life will arise and remove by his power all  
opposition. As there is a dwelling in the deeps



under a sense of our own nothingness as creatures, the redeeming effects of Divine Love are discoverable, and the spirit becomes assimilated with its nature — Thus as in child-like simplicity it is obedient to the promptings of duty, strength is administered from time to time to walk in the light revealed from its own source, which discloses to view every thing that is inconsistent with its order — And causes a standard of Righteousness to be erected in the mind which remains firm against every species of oppression. And as there is a repairing to it ability is renewed right to advance forward and support our testimonies with propriety. May we availingly remember dear sisters that it is holiness of life which will alone render us acceptable, and prepare us for the enjoyment of 'His' presence who hath said, Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Mary Botwin Clerk.

At a Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, held on  
Rhode-Island, for New-England 6<sup>th</sup> Month 12<sup>th</sup> 1826.

Representatives for Rhode-Island, are Susanna Trebon,  
Hannah Earl 2<sup>nd</sup> Lucas Brown - Abigail Arnold - Lydia  
A. H. as Mary Green 1<sup>st</sup> Mary A. Robinson & Hannah  
Collins - Tintonmouth Eunice Jones - & Lydia Allen  
Sandwich, Sarah Allen, Esther Hewitt, Experience Sherman  
Deborah Otis, Sarah Tucker - Anna Macomber, & Susan  
Howland. - Smithfield Eunice Kelly - Lydia Gates - Mary  
Aldrich, and Sarah Shore. - Dover Abigail Lane, Lucas  
Nichols, and Mary T. Brown. - Uxbridge - Elizabeth  
Taber Abigail Dow. - and Elizabeth S. Taber. - all present except  
six, for whose absence, satisfactory reasons have been given.

Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of women-friends  
held in London - Philadelphia, New-York - Baltimore  
Ohio, and Virginia, have been read; and Hannah Collins,  
Mary A. Robinson - Betty Parinton - Sarah Davis - Mary  
Burrington - Susan Howland - Lydia Dean - Mary Earl  
Elizabeth Swift - Mary B. Allen - Elizabeth Rodman -  
Lucas Brown - Miss Rathbone, & Rachel Tindon, are  
appointed to prepare essays & Epistles to those Yearly  
Meetings if Truth, shall open the way. -

Our friend Esther Macomber being with us at  
this time has produced a Certificate from the Month-  
ly Meeting of Tarrytown (State of New York) expressive  
of their unity with her prospect of accompanying her  
husband on a religious visit to this Yearly Meeting, and  
of her being an Elder in good esteem. -

We adjourn to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour this afternoon. -



Second day afternoon, met near the time adjourned to. ~

The Representatives having conferr'd together on the subject of Clerks have proposed Hannah Collins as Clerk - and Ruth Roaman Assistant which after consideration, is united with, and they appointed to that service. ~

The Queries with Answers from the several Quarterly Meetings were read; and Ann Wing, Abigail Shearnan - Phebe Bred, and Abigail Arnold, are appointed to collect a summary therefrom, and present to a future sitting. ~

We were informed that Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting, had united with East-Greenwich M<sup>th</sup> Meeting, in the appointment of Elizabeth Reynolds, with Swansea Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Hannah Carl<sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> and with South-Kingstown Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Lydia Wilbur to the station of Elders. - That Dover Quarterly Meeting had united with that Monthly Meeting in the appointment of ~~Elizabeth Swift~~ Mary T. Brown to that station - also that Sandwich Quarterly Meeting has united in the appointment of Elizabeth Swift<sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> to the same station. ~

The London Printed Epistle of the present year, containing much instructive counsel has been read at this time. ~

We adjourn to the same hour that our Men-Friends may conclude to meet to morrow.

Third day afternoon, met near the 3<sup>d</sup> hour. ~

The Committee appointed to draft Epistles have produced essays to the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia and Baltimore which were read approved and signed.

We adjourn to the same hour that the men may meet to morrow. ~

Fourth day morning met, near the 10<sup>th</sup> hour. ~

The Friends, appointed to prepare a summary have produced one, which has been read, & agreed, and is as follows viz: ~

1<sup>st</sup> It appears that a concern remains, in all our meetings, for the regular, and due attendance thereof, except two meetings, which are not kept up in the middle of the week, and deficiency's are apparent in the month; there is a general expression of care, on that account. ~

2<sup>nd</sup> There also appears to be a degree of Love, and Unity, subsisting in all our meetings; yet that Love, which is the badge of true discipleship, & which would preserve them a church of perfection does not appear to be so fully maintained by all our members, as would be desirable. ~

3<sup>rd</sup> Many friends are endeavouring to discharge the trust reposed in them, faithfully in regard to the education of the youth, both by example, and precept; while others appear too insensitive, and inattentive, to the importance of the subject. ~

A general care is manifested in regard to the 4<sup>th</sup> Query; and also in attention to the poor — where any deviation from the order of society has appeared, in regard to marriages or Refusing Company, &c on that account, care has been extended. ~

Friends are generally careful to maintain our testimony in regard to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Queries. ~

9<sup>th</sup> Some deficiencies on account of Records, and Certificates. ~

10<sup>th</sup> A general care is manifested for the timely, and regular meeting with offenders altho' some exceptions appear in regard to placing judgment according to discipline. ~



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Wednesday to the same hour, <sup>at</sup> which the men may  
meet, this afternoon. ~ 4<sup>th</sup> day afternoon, met near the  
4<sup>th</sup> room. ~ The Representatives being called, are present,  
that attended the first sitting, except Dorcas Brown,  
who is prevented attending, by indisposition. ~

The Boarding School-Committee, have made the  
following report viz:-

" That since their appointment by the Yearly Meet-  
ing in the 6<sup>th</sup> month last, they have given such atten-  
tion, to the concerns of the Institution, as its circumstan-  
ces, seemed to require. ~

" The School, is continued, under the care of  
Matthew, and Betsy Pounton, as Superintendants;  
and Thomas Howland, Stephen A. Chace, and  
Abigail Pearce, as Instructors; the average number  
of children at the Institution, for the year past,  
has been about seventy: Meetings for worship, have  
been continued, we trust with usefulness. ~

" The Concerns of the Family, and School, have  
been satisfactorily conducted, by the Superintend-  
ants, and Teachers; and the improvements, made by  
the Children, has generally been such, as to afford  
encouragement, to the Committee. ~

" By the accounts, of the Superintendants, it appears  
that the expenses of the Family, have been defrayed,  
by the receipts for Board, and Tuition; but there still  
remains, due, to the Boarding Committee, including  
expense of Furniture, the sum, of one Thousand, and  
Eighty four Dollars, and Eighty six Cents. ~ The old  
School-Fund, has been so arranged, that the sum of  
six hundred dollars, per annum, will be appropriated,  
to the schooling, of poor children of the Society, agree-  
able to the original intention of the donors. ~ a  
further sum, is also at the disposal, of the  
Committee, arising from subscription, in the



year 1816, creating a fund, of which Ten Children, have already had the benefit, at the Institution, and which including the above sum, of six hundred dollars, will enable the Committee, to admit one child, from each Monthly Meeting, during six months, of the ensuing year. ~"

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

By

Providence 5<sup>th</sup> Mo 5<sup>th</sup> 1820.

Samuel Rodman. }  
Dorcas Brown. }

and after consideration thereon, it is accepted, and the Committee, that served the last year, are re-appointed, with the addition of Abigail Arnold, ~~and~~ Lydia A. Weeks;—Elizabeth Congdon, and Dorcas Anthony, have also been proposed, but not being present, it is left for them to join ~~the~~ with the Committee, if they feel freedom. ~

Esay's of Epistles, to the Yearly Meetings of Virginia, Ohio, New-York, and London, were presented, and being approved, were sign'd, and the Clerk is directed to forward them; she is also desired to forward Transcripts of the Epistles, rec'd, to our several Quarterly Meetings. ~ A few lines, has been directed to be endorsed, on the Certificate of our friend Esther M<sup>c</sup>omber who has been acceptably with us, at this time. ~

Having been favoured, through the several sittings, of this meeting, to feel our minds gathered, into a degree of solemn quiet, under which we have been enabled to harmonize together, we are disposed, gratefully to acknowledge the favour; to thank our Heavenly Father, and to take courage: and under a sense of his



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goodness, conclude to meet again, at the  
usual time, and place next year, if permitted  
Sign'd on behalf of the meeting,

6<sup>th</sup> Month 14<sup>th</sup> 1820.

Hannah Collins  
Clerk.

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From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, held in Rhode-  
Island for New-England, by adjournments, from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the  
6<sup>th</sup> Month, to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1820. ~

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held  
in Baltimore. ~

Beloved Sisters.

We acknowledge the goodness of our Hea-  
venly Father, in permitting us to meet again in this, our  
annual assembly, and we are sensible, that without Him,  
we can do nothing; it is He, alone, that can properly qual-  
ify us, to address our absent sisters, from whom, we have recei-  
ved, at this time, an epistolary communication containing much,  
that is edifying, and instructive. ~ We notice, with satisfaction,  
that although, your "assembly" was small, it was mercifully owned,  
by the presence, of the "Shepherd, & his Flock", which is cause of thank-  
fulness, and encouragement; and we feel desirous, that  
those, who have chosen the Lord, for their portion, and the  
God of Jacob, for the God, in their inheritance, may continue  
in faithfulness, trusting in Him, who will be a present help-  
er, in every needful time. ~ We believe that there are many  
amongst us, who are deeply exercised, to promote the cause of  
Truth, and Righteousness; and although there may have  
been some sorrowful departures - a straying from the  
true fold, yet we believe secretly hope, and believe, that  
the Father of all our sure mercies, is still drawing, by

the tender cords, of his love, and will enable the faithful, in every clasp, to adopt this language, not my will Oh Lord, but thine, be done. ~ And dear young friends, we feel tenderly solicitous, that you may be watchful, and faithfully dedicated unto Him, who alone, is worthy of a full surrender, of the whole heart; by making this sacrifice, you will be preserved from the vain allurements of this world, and become prepared for usefulness, filling the important stations & allotted for the faithful, trusting, and confiding in Him, who never said, to the seed of Jacob, "suck ye me, in vain", but is found to be graciously near, to support, in the various trials, and vicissitudes of this life, and by a due submission of our wills, to the Divine will, his Yoke, becomes easy, and his burden light; his ways, are found, to be ways of pleasantness, and all his paths, are paths of peace: and may we, beloved sisters hold fast, the profession of our Faith, without wavering, remembering, that the "work of Righteousness, is peace, and the effect thereof, quietness, and assurance forever". ~ ~ In a fresh feeling, of Gospel Love, we bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

Hannah Collins

Olke.

From our Yearly Meeting, of Women-Friends, held on Rhode-Island, for New-England, by adjournments, from the 12<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> Month, to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same, inclusive, 1820.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, to be held in Philadelphia.



Beloved Sisters.

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Believing with you, dear sisters, that it is by watchfulness, unto prayer, that we can alone be kept, in that state, in which, the wisdom, of Man, and the activity of the human mind, are properly subjected, we desire to be preserved, from addressing you, with unfelt expressions, but simply, and gratefully, to acknowledge the receipt of your Epistle of the 4<sup>th</sup> Month, last, which was indeed felt by us, to be as "words fitly spoken": we are at this season, in a situation, wherein we can fully appreciate the value, of sisterly sympathy, and Gospel fellowship, and disposed to ascribe, all that is felt to be a strength, and support, to Him who is the "giver, of every good, and perfect gift." ~ May you, with us, dear sisters, be willingly (increasingly so) that the "doors of Lebanon, may be opened, that the fire, may consume the cedars," that so, all that is lofty, and aspiring may be laid low, believing that it is in this state, that the Lord alone, will be exalted, and we become, duly sensible, that his "name is a strong Tower, wherunto we may flee, and be safe." ~ The present, has been to us, a season, of deep exercise, and trial of Faith, wherein it has been felt, that the seed, lays low, and requires, a patient abiding therewith, that when it may please our Holy Head, to raise it into dominion, we may be enabled, to rejoice with it. ~ We have felt desirous, that the dear youth, may be so watchful, as to be preserved, from all the snares, that may assail them, that so Standard-bearers, may from generation, to generation, be raised up, to sustain those precious

testimonies, given us, to bear; and we can also unite, with you, in desires, that those, who have been looked up to, as way-marks, may be so preserved, on the Ancient Foundation, as to continue, to be as Lights, in the World. ~

With the salutation, of love, we remain, your affectionate Sisters. ~

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

Hannah Collins.

Clerk.

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From our Yearly Meeting, of Women-Friends, held on Rhode Island, for New-England, by adjournments, from, the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month, to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same, inclusive  
1820

To the next Yearly Meeting, of Women-Friends, to be held in Virginia. ~

Beloved Sisters. ~

It is we trust, in the fresh feelings, of that love, that extendeth over sea, and land, and unites the children, of the great Family, into a near bond. ~ Now we are engaged, to salute you, joining in the belief, that it is <sup>be</sup> through the pure medium of light, and life, that an intercourse, of this kind, can, in any wise be beneficial, or tend, to the strengthening of those minds, who have to bear the heat and burden of the day; and who are often made sensible, that of themselves, they can do nothing, yet are encouraged, by an animating hope. ~ That Light is seen for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart" to look forward to that day, when He, who is the Alpha, and the Omega, the bright and morning star, will reach forth a strengthening hand, to those, who have no might of their own, and dare not clothe themselves, with Paul's Armour, but are trusting in the simple "sling and stone"



that is guided by that Wisdom that cannot err, and by which  
 the standard of Truth, is exalted, the humble in heart, and the  
 continue in spirit, encouraged: We also unite with you, in that con-  
 cern, and not only breathe for the prosperity of Jerusalem, that  
 Peace, may abound within her walls, and Prosperity, within her Palaces,  
 but more particularly for those, to whom, the precious Plants, are en-  
 trusted; may these, when their Faith, may be nearly tried, continue,  
 to trust in Him, who said, "Let not your heart, be troubled, ye be-  
 lieve in God, believe also in me." In having our minds thus cen-  
 tered, in humble dependence, upon the simplicity of the Princi-  
 ple, we may feel the efficacy, of that power, which enables,  
 faithfully, to discharge the Trust, reposed, in endeavoring  
 to subject the tender minds to that early restraint, whereby  
 they may grow up, in the nurture, and admonition of the Lord,  
 and so, we may see the rising youth, coming forward, in a line,  
 of religious usefulness, when the present standard-bearers, may  
 be removed, from works, to rewards: we see our minds clothed,  
 with desires, that those, who have been too remiss in this  
 important duty, may be awakened, to a due sense, of their de-  
 ficiency, in this very interesting service, on which account, much  
 has been felt, and expressed, at this time, believing, as this becomes  
 our individual concern, we shall see an evidence, that we stand  
 acquitted, in the Divine sight. We have received your accept-  
 able Epistle of last year, which hath been read, to the edifi-  
 cation, and comfort, of many minds; and although this, our annu-  
 al assembly, hath not been large, we humbly trust, it hath ~~not~~  
 been measurably owned, by the Holy-head of the Church; there-  
 fore, with the Royal Psalmist, are we animated to say, "I love the  
 Lord, because He hath heard my voice, and my supplication; be-  
 cause He hath inclined His ear, unto me, therefore, will I call  
 upon Him;" and may we be induced, by the remembrance, of  
 His ancient goodness, renewed, unto us, to cast all our care,

upon Form. ~

Signed, on behalf of the Meeting.

Hannah Collins  
Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting, of Women-Friends, held on  
Rhode-Island, by adjournments, from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Month,  
to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive, 1820. ~

To the ensuing Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, to be held  
at Mount-Plasance - Ohio.

Dear Sisters.

Under a sense, of the necessity, of feeling  
a state of dependance, on the alone source, of all good, are we  
engaged to acknowledge, the reception of your very acceptable  
Epistle, — that in the sufficiency of Divine grace, is real-  
ized, in a state of nothingness, we may offer the acceptable  
Offering, which arises from a contrite Spirit, believing we shall  
experience the encouraging promise, verified, that "they  
that wait on the Lord, shall renew, their strength": — That  
altho' our minds, are renewedly bowed, with the feeling of  
weakness, and poverty, yet in the arisings of Truth, we are  
favoured to experience our minds, clothed (measurably we trust,  
with Love to God, and one, unto another: May we, in the wil-  
lingness wrought in our minds, faithfully attend to the  
little, being comforted in the remembrance, "that they, that  
have clean hands, shall grow stronger, and stronger", that our  
honest endeavours, to assist in the work, in the way of the  
Lord, may be crowned, with the blessing of Peace. ~

In looking over this, our annual meeting, a renewed  
solicitude, hath been felt, livingly extended to the  
dear Youth, in the hope, that they may experience



their Spiritual Ear, open to hear, the still, small voice, in the secret of the soul, influencing their minds, to turn from "vanity and lies" - from the seducing power of the Enemy, to that, which will qualify, and enable them to stand, prepared, to fill the places, of those, who may be called from "works to rewards"; that they may come up, in their allotments, in the various services of the Church. ~

With a salutation of Love, we are affectionately,  
your friends.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

Hannah Collins  
Clark.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, held on Rhode Island, by adjournments, from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Month, to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same, 1820.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, to be held in New York.

With feelings sympathizing some of our minds, are united, in addressing you, Dear Sister, 'tho' under a sense, of our insufficiency, without the Aid of Him, who alone, is able, to direct aright; some, have been ready to adopt the language, of one formerly, - "if thy presence, go not with us, carry us not thence". - For unless, we are brought under the baptizing power, and influence of the Holy Spirit, we cannot expect, to meet the witnesses of truth, in the minds of those, whom we salute, or do any thing, to the honour, of the great cause. ~ ~ We earnestly desire, that those among you, who have known the truth, and the prin-

ourselves thereof, may endeavour to live near it, and singly attend, to its divine instructions, sealed upon the heart, whereby the true voice, may be distinguished, from the voice of the stranger: ~ And to those, who have not become fully acquainted with this <sup>un</sup>erring guide, we would tenderly recommend, a renewed engagement, to follow its simple intimations, altho' it may lead to the discovery, of much in themselves, to be separated from; and human nature may shrink, and desire to spare something for sacrifice, at a future time; we would encourage these, to make no reserve, but be willing that self, should be wholly offered up, whereby the light, in them, would will arise, with greater clearness, and they by faithfulness, to its leadings, will know its gradual increase, to the perfect day: We have rec<sup>d</sup>. your acceptable Epistle, of the present year, and may acknowledge, that a deeply tried class, with you, have been brought near, to our best life, knowing the path, from a degree, of experience, wherein the language, may be applicable - "I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee, in the furnace of affliction": May these, when ready to be cast down, under the weight of suffering, remember, that the People of God, must be tried, and proved, which is no cause, of discouragement, for as their Faith is steadfast in the Power of Divine Truth, they will find their Life to arise from the strength of Israel, who is a Sun, and Shield, to them that put their trust in Him: Recommending you to that Love - to that Grace, which only can preserve, and



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keep us alive in God, and in one another, we affectionately bid you farewell. ~

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Hannah Collins.

Clarke.

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From our Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, held on Rhode-Island, by adjournments, from the 12<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> Month, to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same, inclusive 1820. —

To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, held in London.

Dear Sisters. ~

In hearing your encouraging communication, addressed to us last year, an acknowledgment is raised, of the Goodness, of God, in preserving to his People, a Pure Language, intelligible to the Soul, that loves him; whereby a Holy union ~~of~~ is experienced, with the Father of Spirits, and the mind, clothed with Love, towards all mankind: In this, we desire to dwell, in heights, and in depths; sensibly feeling, that Preservation, is only known, in a state of Watchfulness, unto prayer, and that Joy, experienced, with the Stranger, cannot intermingle: — We view this, to be a day, that calls for faithfulness, in singleness of heart, that the "Ark of the Covenant," may rest, with the Lord's anointed; and through the renewings of its guidance, ability may be received, for an advancement in sanctification, and acceptance with him. ~ ~ ~ In feeling our minds drawn towards those, who are concerned to give up all in themselves, to the baptizing power of returning love; this ancient query, hath arisen; "Who shall abide, in

thy Tabernacle? Who shall dwell, in thy Holy-hill? - He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. "Our God, shall come, and shall not keep silence; a fire, shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous, round about him": "And the Heavens, shall declare his Righteousness; for God, is Judge himself."

To those, who are in the morning of life, and have not yielded, to the impulsive calls, which they have received to turn from the allurements, of a vain world, we would express a word of encouragement; to give ear, to the reproofs, of instruction, that lead to the increase of divine life, in the soul; believing, that nothing, will be removed, in which, there is substantial enjoyment; - nothing, but that, which keeps them, in bondage: ~ Arise therefore dear Children, be willing to leave forbidden Pleasures; - seek, and pursue those things, that bring Peace, to the mind, whereby, you will know an enlargement, in the Truth, and become established therein, to the comfort, of many, who have long "preferred Jerusalem, to their chiefest joy." ~

In the renewings of Christian fellowship, we conclude, and are your friends. ~

Signed on behalf of the meeting:

Hannah Collins.

Clerk.



At a Yearly Meeting of "Women Friends, held at Newport  
on ~~the~~ Rhode-Island - for New-England, the 11<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup>  
month ~~1821~~ to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1822.

Met agreeable to the conclusion of last year,  
and after a season of solid retirement, proceeded to  
business. Accounts were presented from our several  
quarterly meetings, whose Representatives are - for Rhode-  
Island - Anna Almy Amy Knowles - Hannah Dennis - Deas  
Brown - Mary G. Anthony - Mary Buffington & Sarah  
Green - for Sandwich Elizabeth Mitchell Sarah Russell  
Alice Rogers - Rhoda Howland - Elizabeth Swift and  
Elizabeth Howland - for Salem - Mrs Keene - Ruth  
Baptist - Lydia Breed - and Alice Chace - for Smith-  
field Mary Watty - Sarah Shorson: Dolly Blanch  
Ann L. Buffum, and Amy Fry - for Falmouth Phebe  
Cobb and Anna Pivinton - for Walsborough Han-  
nah Sleeper, Lydia Wamsdel - Leviak Potter, and  
Mary Howland - for Dover, Abigail Dams Elizabeth Shea-  
der, & Phebe Sheader, who are present, except two, for whose  
absence, satisfactory reasons, were rendered.

We were informed <sup>that</sup> from Rhode-Island Quarterly  
Meeting, had united with Rhode Island Monthly Meet-  
ing, in approving of the ministry of Mary Buffington;  
and with South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, in appoint-  
ing Sarah A. Collins to the station of an Elder. and from  
Dover, that they united with Dover Monthly Meeting in  
approving of the ministry of Jane Hussey - and with Sand-  
wich monthly meeting, in the appointment of Lydia  
Fry to the place of an Elder.

The Queries, with the answers from our  
several Quarterly Meetings were read, and some weighty,  
and important remarks were made, relative to  
the deficiencies apparent in them, particularly on  
the subject of love & unity much exercise has  
been felt, and we have been tenderly persuaded  
to labour to have our minds centred in  
him, who is able to keep, & support under every



trial - and who will, as we are concerned to dig deep, and lay our foundation sure, enable us, to bring up stones, of memorial, to his praise. - Thus engaged, we should not be disposed, to look too much, at the failings of others, it would be our primary endeavour, to work in the vineyard, of our own hearts, and a care would be felt, to keep out from thence, all hardness towards our fellow-creatures and evince to beholders, that the "image, and superscription," that we are engaged to bear, is Love to God, and one another, that thereby we may stand, as Lights, in the world. - and while we consider this, as the proper engagement, of every mind, we would also tenderly recommend to those, who are as watch-women, on the ~~walls~~ walls, that they endeavour to feel, the importance of their responsibility, and in the spirit of meekness, and love, be faithful in the discharge of their several duties, for some of us feel it to be a day, that calls for vigilance, that the precious testimony given us to bear, may be firmly supported, on the right ground. - A lively concern, has also been manifested, that parents, may not early adorn their children, with superfluous attire, lest they should thereby weaken their own hands, should they feel the necessity of restraining them, when they are farther advanced in years, but endeavour often to apply for that wisdom, which is profitable to direct, by the aid whereof, they may become good examples, and by circumspect walking, speak this language, "follow us, as we are engaged, to follow him, who is meek, & lowly in heart". -

In seeing so large a number of our young sisters assembled at this time, whose becoming



department, hath afforded a degree of satisfaction to many, we desire, that they, with the elder classes of in Society, may be encouraged to a diligent attendance of their small meetings at home, which may prove as seasons of refreshment, and renewal of strength in them, who give the victory, and who will preserve his humble, dependent children in the unity of the spirit, and in the Bond of Peace. ~

Avis Kane, Ann Wing, and Betsy Purinton, are appointed to prepare a summary from the answers, and present it at a future sitting. ~ we adjourn, to the same hour, at which the men's meeting, may conclude to meet this afternoon. ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> day afternoon - met near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour. ~ The Representatives, having conferred together, on the subject of Clerks - informed that they were united, in proposing Hannah Collins, for Clerk, and Ruth Rodman, assistant, and unity therein being expressed, they are appointed to that service. ~ Copies of minutes from Purchase Monthly Meeting state of New-York, on behalf of our beloved friends Hannah Field, and Patience Haviland, who are acceptably with us, were read - also one, on behalf of our beloved friend Elizabeth Robinson, from the Monthly Meeting of Burlington, (New-Jersey) who is likewise acceptably with us. ~ Epistles, from all the Yearly Meetings, of our Sisters, on this Continent, were received; on the reading of which, we trust many minds were comforted, and strengthened, in the belief, that the truth speaketh the same language, every where, and centres all the rightly exercised, in deep abasement of self. ~ Mary W. Allen, Avis Kane, Lydia Broad, Judith Coffin - Deborah Otis - Ducas



Brown - Anna Almy - Sarah Upton - Ruth Davis - Phoebe Percival - Grace Davis - Mary G. Anthony - Dorcas Peckham, and Mary A. Robinson, are selected, to write to those meetings, if way should open. Abigail Arnold, and Betsy Purinton, are appointed to prepare endorsements on the minutes of our sisters, that are now with us, from their yearly meetings. . . adjourn'd to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour, to morrow afternoon. ~ 3<sup>d</sup> day afternoon - met, agreeable to adjournment. ~ Essay's of Epistles, to the Yearly meetings of Philadelphia - New-York - and New-Garden were presented, which being read, were approved, and sign'd by the Clerk

The Boarding-School Committee have made the following

### Report

#### To the Yearly Meeting

The Boarding-School Committee report, that the School, is still continued under the care of Matthew and Betsy Purinton, as Superintendants, and Thomas Howland, Stephen A. Chace, and Abigail Pierce, as Instructors. . . The number of children, at the Institution, for the past year has averaged about seventy five for the whole year. . . Meetings for worship have been continued, as previously established. . . The Family has been preserved in harmony, and the concerns of the Institution generally so conducted, as to afford continued promise of usefulness. . . By the accounts of the Superintendant it appears, that the expenses of the Family have been paid by the receipts for board, and tuition, and that the Institution is



now free from debt. . . Most of the Monthly Meetings have availed themselves of the privilege given last year, of sending one child to the Institution for the space of six months, and such as have not availed themselves of it viz: Seabrook - Sandwich (N. H.) Windham - Sidney - and Harlowe, are now considered at liberty to send one child each twelve months, provided they conclude to do so within six months from this date; and such Monthly Meetings as have availed themselves of the privilege, have the liberty of sending a child each six months of the ensuing year; or if preferred by any Monthly Meeting, they may send two children three months each.

The Committee having noticed with concern that as respects plainness of dress their recommendations in minutes forwarded to the different Monthly Meetings have not in divers instances, been attended to, think that usefulness may result from bringing their minute of 2<sup>nd</sup> month 1819 before the Yearly Meeting, that it may again be forwarded to the Monthly Meetings, under its sanction.

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

Providence 5<sup>th</sup> mo: 14. 1825. Samuel Rodman  
Darius Brown

which having been read, is united with - they also recommend that the minute of 3<sup>d</sup> of 2<sup>nd</sup> month 1819 may be forwarded to our several monthly meetings - - and the committee who served the last year are continued, with the addition of Darius Anthony, Mary G. Fishman, Elizabeth Whipple, Hannah Dennis, and Sarah Green, who are desired to lend their aid, in endeavouring to sustain good order

in the Institution. ~ adjourned, to meet at the 3<sup>d</sup> hour to  
morrow afternoon. - <sup>the</sup> day 13<sup>th</sup> - not near the time adjourn'd to  
the Representatives present, that attended the first sitting. The  
friends appointed to collect a summary from the answers, have  
produced the following viz:

"It appears that all our meetings for religious worship, and discipline  
have been generally attended except in a few instances, occasion-  
ed by the severity of the weather, altho' a slackness is ap-  
parent in many, particularly in the middle of the week -  
some deficiencies, in the other parts of this query.

<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> - There also appears to be a degree of love, and unity  
subsisting in all our meetings, yet it is evidently want-  
ing with some amongst us: - detraction, not sufficiently  
guarded against - some complaint with regard to dif-  
ferences, altho' it appears that care has been taken.

<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Many friends are endeavouring to discharge the trust  
reposed in them, in regard to the education of the  
youth - but an apparent deviation from the simplicity  
of our profession, is observable in others.

2<sup>d</sup> A general care is manifested in regard to the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Query - and also in attention to the poor.

<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Many deficiencies apparent in regard to mar-  
riage - and company-keeping. ~

Most friends are careful to maintain our testimo-  
ny, in regard to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Query's. ~

<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Some deficiencies in regard to Treasurers, and Cer-  
emonies. ~

<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> We believe many friends endeavour to deal with  
offenders, in the manner queried - and to place judgment



When necessary, according to discipline, yet we apprehend  
these weighty services are not so faithfully attended to,  
as would be best. ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

which has been read, and united with. ~ Endors-  
ements, to be inserted on the minutes of our friends, who  
are with us, were presented - read, and approved. ~

Essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of  
Ohio - Virginia - and Baltimore, were presented, read  
and united with, and directed to be sign'd by the Clerk.

Altho we have, humbly to acknowledge that  
the present season, has been to some of us, a time  
of deep searching of heart - yet we also desire grate-  
fully to commemorate the goodness of our Holy - Leader  
in affording a portion of that strength, which has  
enabled us to transact the weighty affairs, which have  
come before us, in harmony and love to each other. ~

The Clerk is directed to forward transcripts of the  
Epistles received at this time, together with such Extracts  
from these minutes, as may be likely to be useful, to our  
several Quarterly Meetings. ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

We conclude, to meet again at this place,  
at the usual time next year. ~

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting.

Samuel Collins  
Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> to  
the 13<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> months 1821.

To the next Yearly Meeting of women-Friends  
to be held at Philadelphia.

Beloved Sisters. —

It is only in the simplicity of little  
children that we can draw near unto the Father, and  
receive fresh supplies of that internal nourishment which  
supports the humble in every situation, wherein with they  
can lovingly say, they are content: in this state of mind  
there is not an aspiring after great things; If divine  
favour is witnessed, the covering of quietness is felt, there  
is an entrance granted into that "habitation, the walls  
whereof are found to be Salvation", safety is experienced  
from the assaults of the Enemy, and the Shield  
of Faith, is successfully worn. —

But great is the need of watchfulness! To the  
want of this, it is painfully perceived that many pro-  
mising vessels have been marr'd as upon the wheel, the  
work of redemption has been but partially performed,  
and the will, and wisdom of the Creature have taken the  
place of Humility, and Resignation — May this not be  
the case with you; may Fortuna under conflicts be dis-  
eased, and when the Cloud is removed, which has rested  
long upon the tabernacle, and the light of Love  
shines upon the heart, unfolding the mysteries of  
the Kingdom, and expanding the intellectual powers,



let the moving forward, be according to the pointings of that unerring guide, which opens, and none can shut, and when he shuts, none can open. ~ In every portion of duty the rightly exercised mind their peace consists, in dwelling with the principle of Truth, in the mind, that "sure word of Prophecy" which maketh known intelligibly what to do, and strengthens to accomplish; These find, as they wait in true submission, that He, who putteth forth, not only goes before but is with them, effecting in His own way, the promotion of His own Cause: Such are unitedly bound together whether absent, or near, and feel, under the influence of a Christian Spirit, that opposing dispositions are subdued, and an evidence realized, that the Lamb, and his followers, will have the Victory.

May we dear Sisters be encouraged to hold fast the profession of our Faith without wavering - even the Faith which was delivered to the Saints; and by digging deep, we may get below the surface of things, and build upon that Foundation where stability is known, and the Soul becomes centri'd in meekness, and Love.

We may acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable Epistle of the present year, which with the company of the Friends from your meeting, hath been grateful to us.

Signed on behalf of the meeting

Samuel Collins

Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Women - Friends held  
in Rhode-Island.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women - Friends held in  
New-York.

Dear Sisters.

It is we trust in a degree of Gospel-  
Love, which embraceth all, that we are desirous that  
you may partake of that bread, a portion of which  
we humbly trust hath been blessed, and broken amongst  
us, to the sustaining of our fainting spirits, and to the  
enlargement of our hearts, whereby a living concern hath  
been felt that we might retain the badge of true dis-  
cipline, and by a daily indwelling in the spirit of  
watchfulness, and prayer might feel the prevalence of  
Love, and Charity overcoming evil, with good. - And though  
our unwearyed Enemy, doth still continue to sow tares - and  
though "blindness in part may have happened to Israel," yet  
we are encouraged to believe, that there shall "come out of  
Zion, the deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from  
Jacob," and our spirits be more fully united in the bond  
of Christian Fellowship.

And we would that all, might <sup>be concerned</sup> more fully, and more faith-  
fully to maintain our testimony against the vain customs,  
and fashions of the world, clothing our children even  
in early life, in a plain, and simple manner, believ-  
ing this to be consistent with the followers of Him, whose  
"kingdom is not of this world," hoping that our dear young  
friends, on whom will soon devolve the support of our



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Christian testimonies, in which our ancient worthies  
dared to sacrifice not only the pleasures of Egypt,  
but even their lives, and liberty - hoping we repeat, that  
our dear young friends will listen to the voice of instru-  
ction, and yield to the restraints of wisdom, whereby  
you will be preserved from being captivated with the  
fascinating, but unsatisfying pleasures of time, and  
sense, remembering that the fashions of this world  
pass away, and we pass away with it - therefore  
let us watch and be sober, redeeming the time, because  
the days are evil. ~

Finally dear Sisters, let us have "Faith  
in God," and in our Lord, and Saviour Jesus Christ, and  
be encouraged to persevere - for though our cares be many,  
and our responsibility great, and though we may feel  
deeply weighed under a sense thereof, yet some of  
us have gratefully experienced, (and we trust still shall)  
the support of Him, who is a helper in every needful  
time if we faint not, but continue faithful, increa-  
singly dedicated to the promotion of his cause. ~

We may gratefully acknowledge the receipt of  
your Epistle of the present year, and also the  
company of several beloved Sisters from your  
yearly Meeting, whose company, and services, have  
been to our edification. ~

Signed on behalf of the meeting - by  
Hannah Collins Clarke.

From Rhode Island Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends,  
held in adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month, to the 13<sup>th</sup> of the  
same, inclusive 1828. . . To the Yearly Meeting of Women  
Friends, to be held at New-Garden. North Carolina

Dear Sisters.

This we trust under a degree of that love,  
that wisheth well, unto all, that we attempt to address  
you; although the concerns of society, particularly claim our atten-  
tion at this time the communications from the several Yearly  
Meetings on this Continent have been truly grateful to many  
of us, clearly evincing, that the good Shepherd, ceaseth not  
caring for the flock, both immediately, and instrumentally: that  
suitable returns of gratitude may ascend unto him, and that  
we may not by any means deprive ourselves of these benefits  
without which our endeavours will be fruitless to advance the  
cause of Truth, and Righteousness, is the prevailing desire of our  
Hearts; and altho' deficiencies are brought to our view, and claim  
our attention at this time, a comfortable hope, is witnessed, that  
there is an increased number of the dear youths among us, that are  
submitting their necks to the yoke of Christ - and to this class with you  
and us, much solicitude is felt, that nothing may be suffered  
to prevail in their minds, to obstruct this blessed work - that  
neither "heights nor depths, things present, nor yet to come, may  
be able to separate them from the love of God, in Christ Jesus, our  
Lord" and notwithstanding many are the snares to which they are  
exposed, many are the stratagems of an unrelenting enemy, the  
Lord is faithful, who hath promised, that he will not  
leave, nor forsake those who trust in him. --



Several beloved Sisters from other Yearly-Meetings have been with us at this time, whose company, and labours of love have been truly acceptable to us. — with desires for our mutual preservation we bid you affectionately farewell.

Hannah Collins, Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, to be held at Mount-Pleasant - Ohio.

Dear Sisters.

Iware that it is only under the preserving, and enlivening influences of Truth that we can successfully address you - or in any movement advance the precious cause, some of our minds have been renewedly engaged, to wait for a right opening, and not put forth a hand unbidden, while this has been the concern, feelings have arisen, and extended towards you, which seems to warrant a reply to your acceptable Epistle.

The language, which was communicated by our blessed Lord, may be applicable to some of you, when discouragements attend, - when the enemy may be permitted to come in as a flood, and the mind tossed, as with a tempest, and not comforted, - "Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also, in me." - If there is a centering in humble quiet, depending entirely upon the aid of his Spirit, help will be afforded, an overcoming witnessed, and there will have to rejoice as upon the banks of deliverance, where a new song will be given, comparable to that, when the morning stars

united together, in commemorating the praise of Him, who  
from Chaos, brought forth Light, and Order. — There is no cause  
for dismay, nor distrust, if watchfulness is maintained, and  
secret intercessions often made — a guard will be set round  
about the mind — "bread will be given" — and from the  
everlasting fountain of life, refreshment received. — There-  
fore be "strong in the Lord", cheerfully dedicated to his  
service. — — — Thus those who are burden-bearers, will  
exhibit an animating example to the precious youth — &  
with this class, may the counsel of Truth have effect,  
even that which is pleading in your hearts, perhaps  
similar to this, "Open thy doors, O Lebanon, and let the  
fire consume thy cedars", — may there be a willingness on  
your part, dear young sisters, to accept the visitations of  
redeeming Love, that which tenders your spirits, and causes  
them to bow at seasons, under impressions, which that only  
can create, — and which if yielded to, will form your  
minds into its own likeness — removing that, which is op-  
posed to its nature, by introducing you into those baptisms  
which cleanse, and purify, — preparing for usefulness in  
the several allotments you may be called to fill: your  
peace depends upon obedience to the dictates of our  
Holy-teacher — may there be those coming forth, qual-  
ified to succeed the mothers in Israel. —

We conclude, and bid you affectionately farewell  
Signed on behalf of the meeting  
Hannaty Collins Clerk.



From our Yearly Meeting of women - friends, held on  
Rhode-Island, by adjournments, from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup>  
month 1828.

To the next Yearly-Meeting of women-friends, to  
be held in Virginia.

Dear Sisters:

Although we feel at this time but little of  
that union right qualities to offer the language of en-  
couragement to others - we are again strengthened to address  
you, and to acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable  
Epistle of last year, by which it appears, that with you, as  
with us many deficiencies exist - and we fear that many  
in the present day, many are attaching less importance,  
to plainness of dress, and address, than in days that are  
past, and increasingly disposed to deck their children after  
the fashions of a vain world, that soon passeth away. - This  
will doubtless hurt to them as the little Foxes, emphatically  
complained of, that "spoiled the tender vines". - Oh! that  
the dear mothers, may watch over their tender offspring  
with Godly care, and thereby be enabled to lead them for-  
ward in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord". - "We de-  
sire, dear sisters, that no unprofitable discouragements may  
have place in your minds, on account of your number being  
small, but as your trust, and confidence is in Our God, who has  
all Power, and can save by many, a by few, you will experi-  
ence his gracious promise verified, that where two or three are  
rightly gathered, there will He be, in the midst of them.

This our annual assembly has been large, and we humbly trust

measurably owned, by the great Head of the Church, who we believe has graciously condescended, to be around about us, furnishing his devoted servants with suitable counsel, for the edification, and comfort of the Body - and replenishing our hearts with Heavenly Love - that love, which first gathered us, to be a people, and which, if rightly abode in, will be found sufficient to build us up, and finally give us an inheritance amongst all them who are sanctified. - Under a sense of which we affectionately salute and bid you farewell. -

Several beloved sisters from other Yearly Meetings have been acceptably with us, at this time. ~

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting  
Hannah Collins, Clerk.

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From our Yearly Meeting of women-friends held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> months 1821.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Baltimore.

It is we trust under a degree of humble dependence, that we attempt to address you, Beloved Sisters at this time, with a belief, that as the mind is centred to the gift of God with us we shall be favoured to feel the arising of that life and power, which enableth to "divide the word aright", and to perform every divine requisition: and although dear friends, many are the dangers to which we are exposed and various the transformations of the enemy, calculate, not only



to turn aside the feet of the unwary traveller, but to "deceive if possible, the very elect," by artful insinuations and presentations to the mind, of something superlatively good, and thus appearing as an angel of light: how necessary, then, that we obey the injunction - "what I say unto you, I say unto all, watch," abide in the light, and stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the one Faith - for unto the faithful it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for his sake:

A living concern hath also been felt for the dear youths, that they may be encouraged to dedicate the morning of their days, to the promotion of the cause of righteousness on earth, and though much suffering may be the lot of these, yet let us remember, that those whom John saw standing before the throne of God, had come out of great tribulation, and washed their robes white, in the "Blood of the Lamb."

We may acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable Epistle of last year, and also, that we have had the acceptable company of several dear sisters from other Yearly Meetings.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

Hannah Collins, Clerk.

At a Yearly Meeting of women-friends held at Wester-  
port on Rhode Island for New-England from the 17<sup>th</sup> of  
the month to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1822.

That agreeable to the conclusion of last year, and after  
a season of solid retirement, proceeded to business.

It appears by the accounts from our several quarters, that  
the Representatives are, for Rhode-Island - Mary Spencer,  
Betsey Winton - Hannah Gould & Mary Collins, & Mary  
Wadsworth - for Sandwich - Mary B. Allen, Patricia Earl,  
Hannah Holder, & Anna L. Buffum - for Salem  
Mary Chase, Lydia Wood, Sarah Thompson, & Hannah  
Collins - for Sandwich, Rhode Howland, Eunice Mitchell,  
Ruth Davis, Esther Kewitt, Mary Wins Elizabeth Parker,  
and Huldah Gifford. - for Walsborough, Eunice Ramsdale  
Rachel Foster, Hannah Stearns, & Abigail Hawks - for  
Falmouth, Thankless Coffey, Hannah W. Jones Peter  
Cobb Jr. and Mary Read and for Dover, Mary T. Brown  
Anna Wendal, Lydia Fry, and Sybil Jenkins. all present,  
except one, for whose absence, an acceptable reason, has been assigned.

A copy of a minute from Ladies Mo: Meeting on behalf of  
our friend Phoebe Field, from New-York, on behalf of our friend Mary  
Hosmer, from Burlington (New Jersey) relative to our friend Hannah  
L. Smith, and one from Pensacola-Ville, concerning our friend  
Ruthy Spencer, all of whom are now with us, were received, and read.

Communications from our several Quarterly Meet-  
ings were read, by which we are inform'd that Rhode-  
Island Quarter has united with Rhode Island Mo: Meeting,  
in the appointment of - Hannah Gould Jr. to the station



of an Elder - that Sandwich, has united with the judgment  
of the monthly meeting of Antislavery for the northern district  
in appointing Vasanna Gardner to the same station with  
Nintucket who: Meeting, in approving of the public appear-  
ances in the ministry of Judith Jones Esq. and that  
Dover united with Newbury who: Meeting in the appointment  
of Joshua Meader, and Peter Meader, as Elders.

Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of London, New-  
York, Philadelphia - and Watkinson were read, we trust to the  
comfort of many minds.

We adjourn to the time, at which the <sup>men</sup> meeting may conclude  
to meet this afternoon.

2<sup>nd</sup> day afternoon, met near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour.

The Representatives having conferred together on the subject of Clerks  
we united, in proposing Ruth Codman, for Clerk, and Mary  
Coffin, assistant which being approved, they are accordingly  
appointed to that service, for the present year.

Acceptable Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of North  
Carolina - and Ohio, have been read, and the subject of address-  
ing those meetings, from which we have at this time received  
communications, having been deliberated upon, we have appointed  
Alice Watstone, Mary B. Allen, Lydia Bird, Deborah C. C.,  
Hannah Gould Esq. Hannah Collins, Susan Howland, Lucas  
Brown, Anna King, Christiana Sewall, Abigail Sherman Anna  
Amy Elizabeth Parker, and Lydia C. Smith, to prepare essays  
if way should open in the Town, and present when ready.

Hannah W. Jones, Anna Amy, Petsy Winton & Huldah  
Gifford, are selected to prepare endorsements on the minutes  
of those friends who are now acceptably with us from neighbour-  
ing Yearly Meetings, and present at a future sitting.

We adjourn to the hour, at which the men may meet to-morrow.

\* This information was communicated verbally, it having  
been omitted through forgetfulness, in their account.

3 day afternoon, much agreeable to adjournment, at the 4<sup>th</sup> hour.  
The Queries were read, together with their respective answers from our several Quarterly Meetings. Ann King, Abigail Sherman, Patience Earl, and Mary A. Robinson, are appointed to prepare a Summary therefrom, and present at another sitting. - Notwithstanding many, and in some instances lamentable departures are exhibited to our view by the answers to the Queries, yet a degree of encouragement is still felt, and the language of them has been feelingly extended, inciting to an individual attention to our respective duties, and a firm reliance in that Power which only can support the mind, in the day of Trial, and preserve in the hour of temptation.

The men's meeting communicated, to this, a proposition to adopt the following ancient article of discipline viz:

" At a Yearly Meeting of Friends, held on Rhode-Island the 10<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> Mo: 1706. ~

" It is the judgment of this Meeting, that no person that is out of  
" of Unity with Friends; or under dealing of Friends, for  
" any miscarriage, ought to be suffered to sit in  
" meetings of business; nor their collections to be  
" received, but be desired to withdraw from such  
" Meetings, until such time as they give satisfaction  
" for such their miscarriage."

which after solid consideration was united with: ~

We adjourn to the same time, the men may meet to-morrow.

4<sup>th</sup> day afternoon, much near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour.

The Committee for that purpose, presented a Summary, which was read, approved, and is as follows. viz: -



## Summary.

"It appears, that our meetings for religious worship, and discipline have been generally attended, except in a few instances, occasioned by inclemency of weather, and one small meeting has been omitted at times: there is also a remission in some of the attendance of afternoon and mid-week meetings, which deficiency has been latterly increasing in one monthly meeting, some of whom, profess to be conscientious in their withholdings, where also, there has been considerable opposition, which has led to confusion, and disorder, and <sup>the</sup> usefulness of their religious meetings has been much obstructed thereby, on which account labour has been bestowed:—mostly clear of sleeping, and other unbecoming behaviour.

Altho' Love, and serenity are apparent in most friends, yet there are exceptions, more particularly in one meeting, where the unity has been considerably obstructed: distraction, not sufficiently guarded against;—care is taken to end differences.

There are many, who feel concerned, to educate their children, and those under their care, in plainness; to restrain them from reading pernicious Books, and from corrupt conversation, and are exemplary themselves; yet many deviations are apparent, and a more early restraint, in many instances we think would be useful: The Holy-Scriptures, are read in most Friends Families, yet we hear not so frequently in all, as would be wish.

Generally clear, of too freely ~~in~~ partaking of spirituous liquors, and of attending places of public resort, yet there are some exceptions which are under notice: Care is exten-

ded towards the poor.~

We regret to notice, an increasing deviation as it respects Company-keeping, and marriage with those not of our Society.~

It is believed, that our testimony is maintain'd in the several parts of the 7<sup>th</sup> Query.

Generally careful in the several particulars of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

Care is taken to deal with offenders, we trust in that Love, which desires the preservation of all - yet we fear these important services, are not always as faithfully attended to, as Truth requires.

The Boarding-School Committee presented the following Report viz:

" The Boarding-School-Committee report that they have continued  
" their care in the concerns of that Institution, which has been so con-  
" ducted, as to meet their approbation. - Matthew and Betty Purin-  
" ton still exercise the care of Superintendants, and Sarah Jones -  
" Samuel B. Tobey - Abigail Pearce - and Sarah Lockwood, are  
" employ'd as Instructors - Thomas Willbourn has been usefully  
" employ'd during half of the past year, in the same station. -  
" The improvement made by the Children committed to their  
" care, has been such, as to afford us encouragement. - Meetings  
" have been kept up, as at first established, and they are gen-  
" erally attended by some of the Committee. - The Superin-  
" tendants, Teachers, and other members of the Family, appear  
" to live in harmony; and a greater degree of health has  
" been witnessed than in any previous year. - The  
" average number of Scholars has been about twenty five.



the Receipts for board, and tuition, continue to meet the expenditures.

The situation of the Funds, is such, as to enable the Committee again to admit one scholar from each Monthly Meeting six months, or two scholars, three months each - free of expence. -- They feel it incumbent upon them to suggest, to Monthly Meetings, that judicious selections in these Cases, are of importance; it having been found by experience, that such, as have had some opportunities for previous improvement, have not only made greater proficiency, than those where it has been otherwise, but such, upon their return home, have been usefully employ'd as Instructors in small Schools, thereby rendering the Institution more extensively beneficial. --

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

Pondine 5<sup>th</sup> mo: 3 1822.

Abraham Sherman, jun:  
Mary B. Allen.

which was read, and approved. -- and after considering the subject, the Committee, who served the last year, are re-appointed with the addition of Deborah Otis, Alice Washburn, and Susan Howland -- and the exception of Lydia A. Wicks, and Lydia Dean, removed by death, and Elizabeth Woodman, who requested to be released.

and Ohio  
Erg. of Quitts to the Yearly Meetings at London were presented, and read -- and being approved, were sign'd.

We adjourn to the 8<sup>th</sup> hour, to morrow morning.

5<sup>th</sup> day - much agreeable to adjournment.

The Representatives being called, are present, who first attended.

The Friends appointed to prepare endorsements

on the minutes of our beloved Sisters, who are now with us,  
presented them which were approved and signed.

Essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia - New-York - Virginia North-Carolina & Baltimore, and ~~and~~ were presented, approved - and signed.

Transcripts of the Epistles rec<sup>d</sup> at this time, are  
forwarded under the sanction of this meeting, to our  
respective Quarters.

Having been permitted through the  
several sittings of this meeting, to witness a covering of  
quietness and solemnity, we feel bound to acknowledge the  
favour, and now conclude - intending to meet again (if  
permitted) at the usual time, and place next year.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting  
Ruthy Permann Clerk.

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From our Yearly Meetings of Women-Friends held at New-York,  
on Rhode-Island, for New-England, to adjournments from the 17<sup>th</sup> of the  
6<sup>th</sup> month to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same - inclusive 1822.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends to be held in London.

We are renewedly made sensible at this time, that  
"the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong", but those  
who quietly dwell in their tents, beseeching their souls in  
time - will witness in the appointed time, the arisings of that  
Life, which is hid with Christ in God - and receive ability, to  
pursue the path of safety - where "peace flows as a River, and



and righteousness, as the waves of the sea:— This is the experience of the humble in heart, altho' discouragements do abound — a state of languor prevails — yet there is cause to believe, that the Lord has not forsaken us, but that He still continues to comfort the faithful — and notwithstanding these have silently to maintain "over the waste places that appear — a hope arises, that as there is a gathering unto, and centering in the Source of Divine Love, evidences will be afforded from time to time, that the "Lamb, and his followers, will never have the victory." —

We are aware (dear Sisters) that these epistolary communications, are only profitable, as they proceed from the quickening influences of truth, and that it is only by "digging deep, and laying our foundations sure," that we can have access to the spring of consolation, where the waters of the sanctuary are realized by the obedient, to rise higher, and higher, wherein dedicated minds partake together of divine refreshments, which "make glad the heritage of God," and become instrumental in "building one another, up, in the most holy faith: — This is the compact, that is to be desired; — then should we become a "spiritual house — a peculiar people — harmonizing together, tho' personally remote; — each one moving in the allotted sphere of action — studying to be quick, and minding our own proper business; — thus walking by "one rule, and minding the same thing," example would increasingly correspond with holiness, and the precious youth be attracted towards that Christian simplicity, which adorns

the disciples of Christ. ~

We have received your acceptable Epistle, to both you

Tho' in much weakness, yet we trust in belonging  
of Gospel Fellowship, we bid you affectionately farewell.

Sign'd on behalf of the Meeting.

South Woodman Clerk.

~~From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at New York,~~  
on Rhode Island for New England, by adjournments from the  
17<sup>th</sup> of 6 month, to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same, inclusive 1822.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, to be held at Mount  
Pleasant - Ohio. -

Dear Friends.

We trust it is under an humbling sense, that with-  
out the immediate influence of the Spirit of Truth, we can-  
not offer any thing that will prove to be the "avour of Life, unto  
Life," in these, our sister's communications - and under a deep  
sorrow, for the prospects of the "Pleasant Cause, the minds of  
the livingly exercised amongst us are encouraged to believe,  
that notwithstanding the present is a day of close trial, wherein  
the foundations of many are tried and their faith, nearly  
moved, yet as they hold fast their confidence in Him, who  
remains to be the "munition of rocks, their bread will be given  
them, and their water, will be sure" - and those of every Class,  
however remotely situated, will exclaim, that the trial of their  
faith, is more precious, than that of "Gold" and may these, be  
encouraged to "eye the light of Christ, and walk in it,



and thereby be strengthened to move in the line of divine appointment, believing that Lion will yet arise, and shake himself from the dust of the earth, and they permitted to see this Scripture-testimony, verified:—"Beautiful, for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount-Lion; on the sides of the North, is the City of the great King"—"God is known in his Palace, for a refuge" unto which, may we be engaged often to repair, and by a deep indwelling of Spirit, be enabled availingly to desire the blessing of preservation.~

— This, our annual solemnity, has been large, and measurably owned in the several settings, though, by the Shepherd of Israel, who has been pleased to spread his love, as a canopy, over us, and under its precious covering, we have been enabled to transact the weighty affairs of the Church, in simplicity, and Christian concordance.

The state of Society, as exhibited in our answers, from the several Quarterly Meetings, has occasion'd a deep travail of spirit to the rightly exercised amongst us, and drawn forth pertinent, and lively remarks, which we desire may be treasured up to profit.~

Our dear young sisters have been felt to be, a very interesting part of the family, for whom, both with you, and us, a tender solicitude has been felt, that they may be prevailed upon to resign their wills unreservedly unto Him, who is calling for the whole heart, believing as you are thus engaged, to become as clay, in his holy hand, he will in his own time, and way, prepare to become sanctified Vessels, in his house, and be enabled to put forth a clean hand, in support, of the precious

cause, and testimony of Truth. — then dear young friends  
be not afraid, nor ashamed, we entreat you, to acknowledge Jesus Christ  
our Lord, and Saviour, before men, remembering for your encouragement  
his gracious promise of his, that it is those, who are thus willing, whom  
He will acknowledge before his Father, and the Holy Angels. — and to  
those of this Class, who are bowing under the yoke of Christ, we tender  
the salutation of peace, and bid them God speed on  
their way, believing that as you are thus engaged to keep  
your eye single unto, and are guided by the Spirit of  
Christ, you will ~~find~~ be assured to see the arms of your  
hands strengthened by the hand of the mighty God  
of Jacob to bear, and to supply all that in his wisdom  
may be meted out — for unto you, our eyes are turned in  
humble hope for a succession of standard-bearers, when  
those of the present day, are removed, from works, to re-  
wards — Oh then suffer nothing to divert your tender  
minds from the great work of your day — for He who  
who hath said, "I will be strong in weakness, riches  
in poverty, — and a present help in the needful time" —  
will (to your surmounting admiration) prove, that in  
Fatherly condescension He is still disposed, to "give power  
to the faint, and to them that hath no might, they in-  
crease strength."

We have been favoured with the accept-  
able company of several beloved sisters from other  
family-meetings whose labours of Love amongst us  
have been comfortable and strengthening to our mission.

We acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable



Epistle of the last year the reading of which afforded encouragement to us.

With the salutation of their Love, which enableth to desire the preservation of each other, on the immutable foundation - Christ - Jesus, the "Rock of Ages", we bid you affectionately Farewell. -

Sign'd on behalf of the Meeting.

Wm. Freeman Cook.

To the Yearly-Meeting of Women-Friends, held in Philadelphia.

Beloved Sisters.

Under a grateful sense of the continued goodness of our Holy-helper mercifully extended in this day of weakness, and deep-moving to those who feel bound to the Law, and to the testimony, we feel bound to acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable Epistle of month month last, the reading of which tended to strengthen and encourage many, affording evidence to all minds that the operations of the Spirit of Truth, are the same in all, in producing feelings of sympathy and tender solicitude one for another. - How precious (dear sisters) is a right qualification to breathe for each others preservation and also that very thing that is a tender to "divide in Jacob, and scatter in Israel," may be

removed, and in so doing, be enabled to "possess our souls  
in patience" untill further trials may be permitted us.  
may we therefore dear friends, be encouraged to a faithful  
discharge of our several christian duties, cringing  
to our families, and others, that we are engaged to  
press after enduring substance. ~

And in the beloved youth we feel a tender solicitude,  
that in the present state of society, wherein the  
the effects of liberty, and self-indulgence in many  
instances appear to have gained the ascendancy  
over the pure dictates of truth - evincing the truth,  
and making it of "none effect" - may be encouraged  
simply to attend to those impressions made on their minds  
when under the influence of that wisdom, which is pro-  
fitable to direct, and if faithful in the little, the reward  
will be sure, and ability afforded, to persevere in the  
line of divine appointment.

We have at this time been favoured with the com-  
pany of several beloved sisters from other Yearly Meetings  
which has been truly acceptable to us.

This assembly has been large, and the several villing,  
Hearts we humbly trust measurably owned by the Holy  
Head of the Church.

In the renewed feeling of gospel love we bid you  
affectionately farewell.

Signed on behalf of the meeting -

Ester Redman Clerk.



From the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Newport on Rhode Island for New England, by adjournments from the 17<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same, inclusive 1822

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at New York.

At the reading of your acceptable Epistle (dear sisters) many of our minds were strengthened in the belief that the Church of Israel has not forsaken his people nor given his heritage to reproach; altho' it is a day of deep trial - a day wherein many are led to mourn over the desolation of Zion; yet we humbly trust that those who hold fast the profession of their Faith, without wavering even that Faith, once delivered to the saints, will be preserved on the immovable foundation, Christ Jesus, the Rock of Ages, that storms, nor tempests cannot shake.

But dear sisters, we are also made sensible that ~~that~~ there never was a day, when there was more need of dwelling deep, in a state of watchfulness unto prayer; and for those who are concerned to build up the waste places, to be sound in word, and doctrine, that no cause of stumbling may appear, but that we may attend to the exhortation of the Apostle to the primitive believers to "receive no other Gospel than that which we have heard from the beginning" - that we as a society may become more, and more as lights in the world. - and may the youth (for whom we have felt much solicitude) through obedience to the revealed will of our Heavenly Father, be preserved in the simplicity of our profession and prepared to move in their allotted sphere of

religious usefulness; that thereby a succession of standard-bear-  
ers may be raised from generation to generation, that will contin-  
ue to be as the "salt of the earth." We desire to be preserved  
from multiplying unbelonging expressions, and commend you with  
our own souls "unto God, and the word of his grace," which is able  
to build up, and give us an inheritance among all those ~~men~~  
who are sanctified: ~

..... We have at this time been favoured with  
the company of several beloved sisters from other yearly Meetings,  
which has proved acceptable to us.

Sign'd on behalf of the Meeting.

Ruthy Redman Clark.

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From the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends held at New-  
port on Rhode-Island, in New-England, <sup>from</sup> the <sup>1st</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> month  
to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same, (inclusive) 1822.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Virginia  
"Believing in the availing help of the Shepherd of  
Israel, we are engaged to ask in Faith, that in the renewed supplies  
of divine life, and love, we may grow you (dear sisters) in the  
fellowship of the gospel, participating in that "feeling, which  
hath no fellow," and which we believe will cement, and bind  
together the living members of the true Church."

Some of our minds have been bowed under a hum-  
bling sense of the deficiencies, and weaknesses apparent  
among - us, ~~causing~~ <sup>in</sup> the <sup>business</sup> of <sup>our</sup> <sup>meetings</sup>  
truly painful; yet we are aware, that by faithfulness, in



fasting, and prayer, then may <sup>be</sup> that ~~be~~ cast out, which prevents the free circulation of Divine life amongst us: - may we be found willing, patiently to abide the burnings of the Holy hand upon us, for our good, believing there is a sure reward for the faithful labourers, who are willing to submit to the humiliating cross of redeeming love: and altho' the clothing of their minds may be that of mourning even as "Rachel in children, that were not" - yet there is consolation in the evidence, that in the "Valley of Achor" there is a "door of hope" - may we, with you (dear sisters) be encouraged to labour in the vine-yard of our own hearts, when by degrees renewed ability will be received, to obtain the victory over the enemies therein; thus the spirits of the longly exercised become increasingly united in promoting the Cause of Truth, and Righteousness in the earth, and by their circumstances walking, evince to the dear children, that an overcoming is attainable, through the aid of his Lord who hath promised to such a place in his Kingdom.

Dear Sisters be perfect - be of one mind - live in peace, and the God of peace, be with you."

Sign'd on behalf of the Meeting.

Ruthy Rodman. Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held at Newport, on Rhode-Island, for New-England, by adjournments from the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same, 1822.  
To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends at North Carolina

Dear Sisters

Under a humbling sense of our own incapacity to do any thing that would contribute to the advancement of the ever-blessed cause, or welfare one of another - do we attempt to salute you once more, through the medium of epistolary communication believing that every right qualification to perform any Christian duty is vouchsafed to us, by Him, who deigns to make his abode with the humble, and contrite in heart. . . May we therefore daily endeavour to press forward through the many trials that may be allotted us - putting our whole confidence in that divine power, that is "strong in weakness" - and will, if there is a submitting simply to the teachings of the inspeaking word, lead on from "station, to station", until a fulness in the love, and knowledge of our dear Redeemer is experienced.

As solicitude has deeply impressed many minds with fervent aspirations to the Father of all our mercies, that He would still condescend to strengthen the hands of the faithful, that by an individual engagement in every part of the vineyard, the borders of Zion, may be enlarged, and Jerusalem become the praise of the whole earth. and may you dear sisters, whom the Lord has placed as "watch women on the walls", be encouraged to extend this invitation to the precious youth, whose minds are early susceptible of good - "follow us, as we are endeavouring to follow Christ."

And to you dear young friends, who are the beauty of the present, and the hope of succeeding time, - we are disposed to hold forth this invitation - "Come



with me from Lebanon, my sister - my spouse - look with me  
 from Amana - from the top of Shenir and Hermon - from  
 the Lion's den, and from the mountains of "the Leopards" - come  
 away from all the fascinating things of time - surrender your-  
 selves unreservedly into the hand of your God, who will be  
 your "exceeding great reward."

Your acceptable Epistle of last year, has been  
 read, to our encouragement.

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting.

Ruthy Rodman. Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends held at  
 Newport, on "Rhode-Island" for New-England, by adjournments  
 from the 17<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month - to the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same (inclusive) 1822

To the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Baltimore.  
 Dear Friends.

It is under a sense of weakness, and our own insuffi-  
 ciency to perform acceptable service in the Church, either in  
 this, or any other way that we attempt thus to salute you, and  
 inform that we are again permitted to meet in a yearly meeting  
 capacity, in order to transact its important concerns, which  
 during the several sittings, have we trust, been conducted  
 with a measure of best wisdom - and some of our minds have  
 been renewedly comforted, and confirmed in the feeling - that  
 "it is good for us to be here", having <sup>we</sup> believe, through mercy, been  
 favoured to experience our minds solemnized, and our spirits  
 refreshed in the consoling persuasion, that the Lord  
 hath not forgotten to be gracious - that He still

regards his humble, dependent children and is willing, as well as able to do them good, in the fulfillment of his gracious promise to those who wait upon him - "That they shall renew their strength" - and many, we doubt not, with you, and us, have witnessed a benefit resulting from the practice of thus waiting, in order, and with desire, to be renewed in the spirit of their minds, by the powerful operation of the spirit of Christ, whom we acknowledge to be the resurrection and the life. ~

We have been comforted on hearing your acceptable communication of the 10<sup>th</sup> month last - and desires have prevailed in some of our <sup>minds</sup> that we may profit by its encouraging contents - and be induced to lend our aid in promoting such an intercourse, which when rightly performed has been <sup>as a</sup> crumb to them, who "hunger and thirst after righteousness." ~

Our minds have been clothed with lamentation, on account of the low state of society, and the many deficiencies apparent therein, has occasioned much exercise to the burden-bearers with us, who have been brought through suffering and conflict, to the happy conclusion of a tried veritable promise - "my righteousness, I hold fast, and will not let it go - my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live." ~

We have had the company of dear beloved sisters from other yearly meetings, whose company, and religious communications, have been comforting, and instructive. ~

With the salutation of near affection we bid you, farewell  
Signed on behalf of the meeting.  
Ruth Rodman Clerk.





Through the medium of the Accounts from our Quarterly Meetings (which have been read at this time) we have received the following information viz:

That Salem Quarterly Meeting has united with these Monthly Meetings in the appointment of Cornelia Page, to the station of an Elder, and approving of the public appearances in the ministry of Alice Chase — with Seabrook Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Ruth W. Jones to the station of an Elder, and with Salem Monthly Meeting in appointing Ruth W. Jones, and Miriam <sup>Kingshall</sup> to that station. . . . That Sandwich Quarter has united with New Bedford Monthly Meeting in approving the public appearances in the ministry of Susanna Cowland and Deborah Ols, and with Dartmouth Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Sarah Reed to the place of an Elder.

We adjourn to the time, at which the next meeting may conclude to meet.

2<sup>nd</sup> day afternoon met near the 3<sup>d</sup> hour.

The Representatives having met, and conferred together on the subject of Clerks, proposed Ruth W. Jones as Clerk, and Ann Wing as scribe, which this meeting uniting with, they are accordingly appointed for the present year. +

Mary B. Allen, and David Brown, are selected to prepare an endorsement on the minute of our friend Hannah G. Field

The Queries have been read, together with answers from our several Quarterly Meetings. from the latter of which Abigail Arnold Emery Jones, and Ruth W. Jones are desired to collect a summary, and present at a future sitting. +

+ An acceptable Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Faith-Preparanda was received and read.



On the subject of neglecting the attendance of our religious Meetings (which has been frequently noticed in some of the answers to the Queries) much has been expressed, and we have been feelingly reminded of the necessity of more attention to this important duty, from a belief, that an indifference, to this requisition is an index to many other deviations.

A deficiency of Love and unity which has also been observed, has claimed our serious attention at this time, and occasion'd much exercise in the minds of the livingly concerned; & we have been seriously admonish'd to consider the entire inconsistency thereof with the spirit of the Gospel.

Adjourn to the same hour at which the men's meeting may conclude to meet to-morrow.

3<sup>d</sup> day - meet near the 3<sup>d</sup> hour.

The Boarding School Committee presented the following report viz:

That the School is under the government of the same Superintendants, and Teachers, as at the time of our last report.

The average number of Scholars, has been about 40. Their general conduct, and improvement in learning, have been such as to be satisfactory and encouraging to the Committee. . . Meetings for worship, have been kept up, and as far as appears, in an acceptable manner. . . With a view to equalize the expense of sending Children to the school, the Committee have concluded to make an allowance of eight cents per mile for travelling expenses, to such Scholars, as are sent from within the limits of Dover, Tatmouth, and Salisbury Quarterly Meetings, provided they remain six months, or upwards at the School; and they have inform'd those Quarterly Meetings of their conclusion.

The Committee again conclude to admit from each Monthly Meeting, one Scholar for six months, or two Scholars three months each, free of expense.

Since our last report, two of the early friends of the School, and members of this Committee, Sylvester Weeks of Cranston, and Phadras Brown of Providence, have been removed by death. - Their Executors laid before this Committee, items of their respective Wills, embracing liberal bequests in aid of the funds of the School, and promotion of its objects, an abstract of which, will accompany this report.

The Executor of Lydia Tillinghast late of Providence, deceased, also presented to the Committee an article of her last Will, by which a bequest is made to certain Friends in trust, to aid the Charitable fund of the Institution - a copy of which, will be transmitted with the abstract above referred to.

It has appeared very desirable to the Committee, that the benefits of these, and other similar donations that have already been made, or that may hereafter be made to the School, or to the Yearly Meeting on its behalf, may be permanently secured to it, for the benevolent objects intended by the Donors, in such way as may produce least embarrassment to the Society, in the management of its pecuniary concerns, and be attended with safety to all concerned. Which is submitted to the consideration of the Yearly Meeting."

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

Rowland Green.

Providence 2<sup>nd</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> month 1823.

Oliver Watson.

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which was accepted, and after due deliberation the subject this meeting has reappointed the Committee who served the last year, with the addition of Elizabeth Potter Sarah Barnard, and Susanna Gardiner thereto. ~



The friends who had the charge of preparing a summary presented one at this time which was read approved and is as follows.

### Summary.

It appears by accounts received from our several Quarters, that ~~our~~ a good degree of care is maintain'd for the regular and due attendance of all our meetings, notwithstanding there are deficiencies in regard to a faithful discharge of that important duty — the slow, generally observed and a care to guard against all indecencies when assembled for Divine Worship. — Many friends are concerned to labour for the preservation and supports of that Love and unity, which is the badge of true discipleship, yet there are sorrowful instances of deviation from a strict attention to facts, which tends to introduce a spirit of detraction, that has sometimes caused differences to exist among us.

It gives the satisfaction to find that many Parents and Heads of families are endeavouring to discharge their duty faithfully, both by precept and example, for the right education of their children, and those under their care, yet a more early restraint in many instances is evidently wanting, and great departures from ancient simplicity in dress, and manners, are apparent among the younger Classes.

A general care to guard against the unnecessary use of spiritous liquors is manifested, yet with sorrow we observe a few instances wherein it has not been confined to medicine — Some instances of attending, places of unbecomable resort; on other occasions, moderation and temperance mostly attended to.

Friends are careful to inspect, and relieve the necessities of the poor — a few cases of children, being placed from amongst friends.

Notwithstanding a concern appears in most parents to guard their children against forming improper connections, yet with regret we observe many instances of departure from the good order of society



on this account. . . The subjects of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Queries seem pretty well attended to, and care is extended in regard to Records, and Certificates. ~

A degree of concern is manifested in all our makings, for the support of our testimony in regard to dealing with offenders, and placing judgment agreeably to discipline. ~

Essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of New-York, and North-Carolina, were presented by the Committee which were read, and being approved were signed. ~

We have at this time been feelingly encouraged to an increase of faith, minds whereby we should be qualified to bear one another's burdens, that the work might unitedly prosper in our hands; for altho' many may be ready to say in their hearts "Wo is me: for I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips," yet as there is a willingness to do the Lord's work he will be pleased to "take a live coal from off his holy altar, and touch their lips," that their iniquity will be taken away, and their sins purged. ~

Notwithstanding we have met together under many discouragements, there arises a belief, that there will <sup>be</sup> many among the precious youth, that will come forward, "holding up the arms of those, whose hands are ready to hang down," as they formerly did <sup>those</sup> of Moses, lest Amalek should prevail, and be encouraged to adopt this language, "Thine are we David, and on thy side, Thou son of Jesse."

A concern has been expressed that a willingness might individually be experienced to endure privations - even to go ~~down~~ into the furnace, and to know that within us which is in the "hammer," to go to the hammer - and that <sup>to</sup> ~~for~~ the fire which is in the "fire" - even to go seven times into Jordan - the river of



true judgment," that in all situations, we may be content, and enabled to say with the Apostle - "I know how to be abased, and how to abound."

A lively concern has also been manifested that we might all steadfastly endeavour to abide in the "fear of the Lord" - which is not only the "beginning of wisdom," but is emphatically declared in the Scriptures of Truth, to be a "fountain of life, preserving from the snares of death."

The present season, has not <sup>been</sup> felt to be a time of making a "joyful noise" - yet a remnant amongst us can reverently acknowledge, that a portion of that bread which sustaineth the soul, hath from season to season, been mercifully dispensed - and we have been feelingly encouraged not to give back in seasons of conflict, even if trials should yet arise comparable to the swellings of Jordan, but be willing to place our confidence wholly on Him, who knows the secret intentions of every heart, and who will (as our trust is in him alone) cause the "armies of the aliens" to be put to flight - then should we experience a being set free, so that we could sing his praise on the "banks of deliverance."

We adjourn to the same hour at which the men's meeting may conclude <sup>meets to</sup> tomorrow.

4<sup>th</sup> day - met near the 10<sup>th</sup> hour.

The friends under appointment to prepare an endorsement to place on the minute of our friend Hannah G. Field presented <sup>one</sup> which being approved, was signed in both meetings.

Essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of Ohio - Philadelphia, Virginia, and Baltimore, were presented, read, and approved.

We adjourn to the hour at which

the men's meeting may conclude to meet this afternoon.

4<sup>th</sup> day afternoon met agreeable to adjournment.

The Representatives being called are present, that attended the first sitting.

An Essay of an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of women - friends at Indiana was read & approved.\*

Having been favoured through the several sittings of this meeting to feel the efficacy of that Love, which binds together, we have under the influence thereof, been enabled to transact the concerns that have come before us, in harmony, and christian condescension

We conclude, intending to meet again if permitted at the usual time, and place, next year.

\* Transcripts of the Epistles received, and some Extracts from the minutes of this meeting are directed to be forwarded to our several Quarterly Meetings.

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting.

6<sup>th</sup> month 18<sup>th</sup> 1823.

Reuben Rodman  
Clerk.

\* This minute should have preceded the concluding one.



From our Yearly Meeting of women friends held on Rhode-  
Island by adjournments from the 16<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 19<sup>th</sup>  
the same inclusive 1823.

To New-York Yearly Meeting of women - friends

In the free circulation of that Love which  
springs from the inward revelation of the Gospel of our Lord, and  
since true victory meditation is felt to be a duty, and from we  
trust a degree of its holy influence, we thus attempt to address you,  
under a deep sense, that it is through weakness strength is gain-  
ed, and we enabled to offer the language of encouragement  
to them who are dwelling in the valley of humility, to  
whom the Lord will reveal the secrets of his kingdom, even  
those mysteries which are hidden from the wise, and pru-  
dents, who confide in their own wisdom, but are revealed unto  
babes; these he is graciously condescending "to teach of his  
ways, and to guide in the paths of safety" - these know  
that their strength lies not in the "wisdom of man" but  
in the "power" (which is given them) of God. - and in this,  
may we stand fast - being of one mind - striving together  
for the truth of the Gospel, and that we may keep it inviolate,  
as it was once delivered to the saints; so we have no new doc-  
trine to promulgate, but that which was from the beginning -  
being firmly convinced that the testimonies given us to bear,  
are founded upon the gospel of Christ in its primitive  
purity, unsullied by the contrivances of men, we are  
truly concerned that our dear sisters every where, should  
principally hold up this standard to the view of nations, and not  
be ashamed to confess our Lord and Master before men, least they  
also refuse to acknowledge us, before his Father, and the holy Angels.

In passing from a state of nature, to a state of  
grace - the cross, to our natural inclinations, must be taken  
up, - the way of self-denial must be daily pursued - and if  
this be done in that faith, which produces a reliance on the

There is of Him who has borne the pain of suffering, and  
in a creative dedication brings its own reward, the consola-  
tions which abound, animate us to persevere - one of the blessed  
effects of thus aspiring after holiness of life is an increase  
of true love in which fellowship and unity exist, and we  
strengthened to walk in the light, and become one another's  
burthen-bearers, and "joy in the Lord" - qualified to encourage  
each other in every good work.

From a renewed persuasion of the  
importance of walking in a state of humble dependence on  
the alone Fountain of strength, we desire to encourage Pa-  
rents and heads of families to seek for frequent occasions  
to collect their children and dependants around them, and  
in the ability which may be afforded, turn their attention  
to Him who hath said "suffer little children to come unto  
me and forbid them not." - The hearing of the scriptures  
of truth in such seasons of family-retirement, may  
also we believe prove a lasting benefit, and in a particular  
manner to the younger members; their instructive con-  
tents frequently solemnize the mind, and the great truths  
which point to the means of salvation, thus become associ-  
ated with our earliest, and most tender recollections - and  
may we all dear sisters continue increasingly engaged to  
walk more, and more worthy of our high calling, so that  
"thus seeing our good works may glorify our Father, who is  
in Heaven, for the work of righteousness is near, and the  
effect thereof - quietness, and assurance forever.

We have rec<sup>d</sup> your acceptable Epistle of the  
present year the reading of which, was to the comfort and  
edification of many minds.

With the valuation of love we remain your affectionate  
Sisters.

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting  
Ruth & Edwin Clark.



From the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends held  
on Rhode-Island 1823.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends  
to be held at New Garden in Guilford County North Carolina  
Dear Sisters.

As "deep calleth unto deep, at the noise of the  
water spouts," so were some of our minds, out of the depth  
of suffering, made to rejoice at the hearing of your lively Epis-  
tle, which has tended to strengthen our faith, that the great  
Head of the Church is still mindful of his people, wherever  
scattered; and beloved sisters, we desire that a grateful  
sense of his mercies vouchsafed from season to season  
may animate, and encourage as all his dependent chil-  
dren to greater degrees of faithfulness, that every fac-  
ulty of the mind may be devoted to his service, under the pu-  
rifying operation of his love, and thus be found, bringing forth  
fruit to his praise; considering ourselves as strangers and pilgrims  
on the earth, letting our lights shine before men by a self-  
denying life under the power of the cross of Christ, which  
crucifies to the world, and the world to us:—this should we  
be as the "salt of the earth" and be preserved from the desolating  
effects of our own unregenerate wills, in all its secret workings:  
how memorable the language of the divine master! "He that  
suffereth to save his life, shall lose it, but he that loseth his life  
for my sake, and the gospel's, shall save it."—

Dear Sisters let us be encouraged to persevere amid all  
the trials that may yet await us, knowing it is those  
that "hold out to the end," that "shall be saved."—

We desire also to strengthen your hands to labour in  
ameliorating the condition of the distressed Africans, whose  
sufferings altho' not immediately under our notice, yet  
at times we have been led into sympathy with them.

Thus our annual assembly hath not been large,  
but we think favour'd through the several sittings with

a covering of solemnity, under which the concerns of society have been conducted in harmony: —

In love we conclude, and bid you farewell.

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting.

Katharine Woodman Clark.

From the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends  
held on Rhode-Island. 1823

To the Yearly Meeting of women-friends at Ohio.

Some of our minds dear sisters at the present season have been humbled, under a sense of our own inability to do any good work; but have, through the fresh extendings of tender mercy, been favour'd to feel, that our sufficiency was in Him, who alone can qualify, acceptable to save one another in the feeling of Christian fellowship, in which we have been favour'd during the several sittings of this our yearly Meeting, to transact the important concerns of Society that have come before us; and many have felt their minds refresh'd with gospel love, and under the humbling influence of divine power, been enabled to offer this language: — "come taste, and see that the Lord is good." — "being found rich in mercies, are indeed new every morning: & the reading of your excellent Epistle of 9<sup>th</sup> month last, tended to strengthen our faith, and encourage to a continued trust in that principle which first gathered us to be a people, and hath ever preserved in the "fear of the Lord," those that have been faithful to its manifestations. ~

A lively concern has been felt, that friends of every rank, and station in society, may by a close adherence to the principle of <sup>our</sup> faith and profession, so live under the preserving operation of the Christian spirit, as to promote in their lives and conduct, its universal influence upon the hearts of men: it is to watch-fulsness unto prayer, that our minds are led to look to a higher power, than our own faculties to enable us to work out



our salvation, or to aid in promoting the Lord's work, on the earth: at the same time, an increase of gratitude from a continued sense of the Lord's unmerited goodness, will animate us to serve him in the performance of our allotted duties, both in civil, and religious society; and as self is abased in us, we shall be preserved from seeking great things, either in spiritual, or temporal matters: should but little of the things of this world fall to our lot, we <sup>shall</sup> endeavour to be satisfied, if we can but enjoy our divine Master's love: in this blessed lovely state unfeigned love will prevail, not only to the exclusion of every selfish thing, but to the enlargement of our borders in the Truth.

The attention of some of our minds, dear sisters, has been feelingly turned to the important subject of a guarded education suitable for our youth, we tenderly desire that parents, both with you, and us, may have their attention duly turned to this interesting concern; for in the susceptible minds of children, the germs of both good, and evil may almost insensibly be nurtured and by no means with greater certainty, than by the force of example: the influence of education thus becomes a subject of moment sufficient to claim the early attention of every concerned parent.

We are one with you dear sisters in the sentiment that the present is a day that calls forth this language, "stand fast in the Lord, and in the power of his might," who continues to be strength to such as turn the battle to the gate - and altho' the way to the kingdom is through tribulation, as our dependence is on Him, who has trodden the path of suffering before us in remembrance that the servant is not above his master, nor the disciple above his Lord, he will be with all these as a "pillar of Cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night," and enable them to adopt this language by thy "God, and Staff, thou comfortest me," and in assuring that we may "thank God, and take courage" we again salute and bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed on behalf of the meeting

Ruth Woodman Clarke

From "Whoso Shall Truly Serving of Him" - 1023.

To the yearly meeting of Friends at Philadelphia.

Beloved Sisters

Although the present is not a time of abounding  
but rather of weakness, yet through the wondrous power of our holy leader,  
some of our minds have been strengthened in the belief of the scripture  
declaration, that the "righteous shall hold on his way" - and he of clean  
rings - "stronger and stronger" - and that no "good thing will be  
withheld from those that love him," and that we concern'd to  
walk uprightly - not "trusting to their own understandings" but faith-  
fully pursuing the path of Christian duty, whereby they may be en-  
abled to strengthen, and encourage one another; and thus be pre-  
served from laying stumbling blocks in the way of the inexperienced,  
yet honest enquirer. - The preservation of this part of society, is  
a subject of deep concern with us, and also for those who are not  
yet concerned to inquire the "way to life," who are deterred by the  
fascinating pleasures of time, and sense. - "But may these, with you,  
and us, be persuaded to seek the Lord while he may be found, and call  
upon him while he is near," lest the time come wherein they may have  
sorrowfully to exclaim - "The harvest is over, the summer is ended and we  
are not gathered." - There may none of those, who in the path of spiritual  
have made some progress, and who have been engaged to espouse the cause  
of truth, and righteousness, be prevailed upon by false reasoning, or the  
suggestion of an unwelcome enemy, to turn back in the "day of battle,"  
but rather to continue in that which will enable them to "put on strength  
in the name of the Lord," whereby victory may be obtained, and the mind  
safely centered in the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Our meeting has not been large - a considerable number of  
the youthful part of Society, who have been present with us, by their  
solid attention to the object of our coming together, have afforded a  
degree of strength and encouragement at this time.

Under a renewed feeling of religious fellowship we  
bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

Reuben Woodman Clerk.



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From Rhode Island Yearly Meeting of Women - Friends 1823  
to the Yearly Meeting of Women - Friends in Virginia.

Dear Friends.

It remains to be a source of consolation to the deeply exercised mind, to believe that the "name of the Lord" is a strong tower, and a refuge for the righteous: - then may we dear sisters be encouraged to continue to put our trust in that arm of divine power, which wrought "deliverance for Jacob," and is still mindful of his "preserving Israel," who dare not form to themselves any "likeness of any thing that is in Heaven," nor trust in any other name but the Lord of hosts, believing that in condescending mercy, he will yet continue to "bless the provision of Zion, and satisfy her poor with bread." - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven".

Some of our minds have been drawn in tender sympathy, to salute the humble silent traveller who bows bowed under the burden of the present day, and their spirits confident before the Lord, under a sense of their own insufficiency to do any thing that will tend to the promotion of the great, and glorious cause of righteousness in the earth, or to hold up the standard of truth to the nations, and are ready at times to exclaim "By whom shall Jacob arise, for he is small". To these, we desire to hold forth the language of encouragement "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might," having on the whole armour of "Righteousness," you may be able to stand with your lights burning, prepared like the wise virgins to meet the "Bridegroom of souls." That the seasoning virtue of your spirits may be experienced to be comparable to the "Salt of the earth".

And altho' dear sisters, when gathered in some of your small meetings, you may be ready to faint in your minds - to such we would say, be not discouraged, but recur to the testimony of our blessed Lord, who hath said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them", and his presence is known to be "better than life and the lifting up of the light of his countenance, than great earthly riches."

I near constantly have been experienced with you, in our efforts  
for the emancipation of that suffering part of the human family  
(the oppressed Africans) - and may you be encouraged to persevere  
in the good cause, that the blessings of the faithful may rest  
upon you, however discouraging the prospect may appear, believing  
that He, who hath begun the good work is still able, and willing to  
carry it forward, to the praise of his own name.

On the reading of your acceptable Epistle of 5<sup>th</sup> mo: 1822  
some of our minds were comforted from the salutary counsel,  
and tender sympathy therein contain'd.

Under a sense of continued mercies, we salute you,  
and are your affectionate friends.

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting

Wm. W. Freeman Ch. B.

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From Rhode-Island Yearly Meeting of Women Friends 1823.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Women - Friends to be held  
at Baltimore

Dear Friends.

We are renewedly sensible at this time, of the  
necessity of repairing to the watch-tower, waiting as at wisdom's  
gate, for a renewed qualification rightly to transact the business  
that hath come before us; and altho' a feeling of discouragement  
assails our minds, in, and under a sense of the various departures  
from the good, and wholesome rules of discipline, yet we have  
sublimely realized that there has been consolation, and encourage-  
ment imparted immediately, and instrumentally, we trust from  
the source of all good, from whence alone the pure language of  
God's love can edify, or build up in the most Holy - Faith: may  
we yet more & more experience the life, and power of Christ, the  
Holy Head to raise into dominion - purifying, & qualifying for  
our service in the Church, and promotion in Truth, and high-  
concerns in the Earth, that the doctrines of Christianity may  
flow as in former days: that we may be preserved chaste,  
and pure, having life in the Trinity, or Christ our Redeemer,



evincing our belief in the testimony of the Apostle - "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world".

Much sympathy has been expressed for those who are under discouragements, and are ready to exclaim - "Why sayest thou O Jacob, & shakest Oh Israel, my way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God?" - "Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard, that He, the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth fainteth not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding" - "He giveth power to the faint, and to them that hath no might, he increaseth strength".

From a feeling sense, that in consequence of the unfaithfulness of many who might have been as Lights in the world, yet have become as wither'd branches, we are tenderly solicitous that the youth may be encouraged to devote the morning of their days, to the work, and service of the Lord; there is preservation in his fear, from a sense of the dangers that are in the world; the temptations to evil, that are continually lurking under a smiling likeness to the reality of the Truth. It is the fervent desire of the exercised amongst us, that the tender plants, both with you, and us, may escape all the snares of the wicked One, by firmly setting for a ability to build on that Rock, that is sure, and steadfast, against which, nothing can prevail.

We feelingly sympathize with you in your Christian endeavours for the help, & improvement of the African race, within your borders, and crave that you may be strengthened and encouraged to persevere in well-doing, believing it will yield that peace which will prove a rich reward, for labours bestowed.

We have been favoured to feel the quieting, soothing influence of Divine Love in our several sittings, whereby many have been refreshed, under a consoling reflection that the Lord was near to "preserve his heritage" & prosper his own work in the minds of the faithful; therefore may these be encouraged

to "hold fast the profession of our faith, without wavering."

In love we salute you, and are your Friends.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

Ruthy Woodman Clerk.

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From the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends on Rhode-Island<sup>1823</sup>  
To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends at Indiana  
Dear Sisters.

In a measure of the unchangeable Love of the ever-  
blessed Jesus, some of our minds have been drawn into an sympathy  
with the suffering soul in many parts of the heritage, in this day  
of deep proving as at the waters of Jordan, feeling the depth of  
their own unworthiness, and the necessity of abiding on that  
wisdom, which is "profitable to discern, and qualifies to distinguish  
between the voice of the true shepherd, and that of the stranger", believing  
in the encouraging testimony of our Lord - "I am the Vine, ye  
are the Branches: which being a figure of the inseparable connection between  
Christ, and his Church, as we abide in him, the true, and living vine, our  
minds will be enriched with the fruits of righteousness, and peace,  
and we thereby enabled to persevere, holding forth the profession of  
our faith, trusting in Him, who hath said - "Let not your hearts be trou-  
bled, ye believe in God, believe also in me". -

And we desire dear sisters, that such among you, as are of  
the "mourners in Zion, and the heavy-hearted in Jerusalem" may be encoura-  
ged from the belief, that He will appoint "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy, for  
mourning, and the garment of praise, for the spirit of heaviness."

We notice with satisfaction your continued care both toward the  
early inhabitants of the land, and the oppressed African race, and we  
feel a solicitude that your benevolent endeavours may be crowned with  
a blessing, not only in civilization, but in drawing their minds to the  
spirit of truth, that under its humbling influence they may continue to advance  
in improvement.

The reading of your lively Epistle of 10<sup>th</sup> month last,  
animated some of our minds to take a retrospective view of your  
late wilderness state, accompanied with a hope, that as



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outwardly, so inwardly - it might become a fruitful field, a garden of the Lord.

By often centering to the gifts of God, we may dear sisters, under the gathering influence thereof, be enabled to possess our souls in patience, and be prepared to "rejoice evermore, and in every thing give thanks" unto Him, who hath graciously condescended immeasurably to own the several sittings of this, our yearly meeting and under a grateful sense thereof, we have been favoured to attend to the important concerns that have come before us, at this time.

With the salutation of Love, we remain your friends.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

Ruth Woodman Clerk.

The Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on Rhode-Island for New England by adjournments from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1824

Met agreeable to adjournment, and after a season of solid retirement, proceeded to business.

It appears by the accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings, that the Representatives therefrom are as follows - viz: - for Rhode Island - Deas, ~~Pickam~~ Mary G. Anthony, Hannah Dennis, Ann Spencer and Mary Carl. - for Salem Elizabeth Rogers, Miss Hunt, Mary Chase, Sarah Thompson, and Hannah Collins. - for Sandwich Mary Carl. Sarah Davis. Anna Mearns. Susanna Gardner. Miss Barnard. Mary Davis. Huldah Pifford. and Elizabeth Kelley. - for Falmouth, Anna Pinckton. Mary Reed and Sarah Allen. - for Smithfield Mary B. Allen. Rachel Bassett, Ruth Fry & Elizabeth Bowen. - for Walsingham Hannah Sleeper. Lydia Tabor. and Mary Smith. - for Dover, Eliza Darnie, Mary T. Brown. Phil. Foster & Lydia Fry - all



persons except two in whose absence no suitable reasons have been assign'd.

A copy of a minute on behalf of our beloved friend Sarah Collins, from the Monthly Meeting of Friends at New-York, was rec<sup>d</sup> and read.

By the accounts from the Quarterly Meetings constituting this, which have been read at this time we have received the following information, viz— That Sandwich Quarter has united with New Bedford Monthly Meeting in the removal of Elizabeth Wedderburn and Mary Botch from the station of Elders— That Smithfield Quarter has united with Smithfield Mo: Meeting in the appointment of Hannah Smith, to that station: and that Cassabrough Quarter has united with Leeds Mo: Meeting, in the appointment of Betsey Baily, with Harlowe, in the appointment of Hepzibah Colcliff, and with Cassabrough in the appointment of Jeremiah Becker, and Lydia Lytle, to the above-said station.

Acceptable Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Indiana were rec<sup>d</sup> and read at this time to the comfort, and we trust edification of many present.

Mary B. Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell, Sarah Tucker, Deborah Olin, Hannah Collins, Miri Pease, Alice Rathbone, Mary Card, Betsey Huntington, Dorcas Decham, Mary Doebney, Ruth Davis, Mary A. Robinson, Mary T. Brown, Lydia Budd, and Dorcas Brown are selected to prepare Essays or Epistles, to such of those meetings, as may may deem proper in the future, and present when ready.

The adjourn to the hour at which the meeting may conclude to meet this afternoon.



On a view of the state of Society that has been obtain'd by the answers to the Queries, it appears many deviations are manifest, particularly in relation to the due attendance of our religious meetings, and a departure from ancient simplicity in dress, and manners; there, together with a spirit of detraction, which has been sorrowfully noticed in some of the answers, has occasion'd much anxiety to those, in whose sight our ancient testimonies remain to be exceedingly precious: to this Class, the language ~~has been~~ of encouragement has been kindly extended, and they kindly counsel'd to persevere faithfully in the discharge of duty.





<sup>nd</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> day afternoon - met agreeable to adjournment, near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour.

The Representatives having met, and con-  
fer'd together on the subject of Clerks, related that  
they were united in proposing Ruth Bodman, and  
Ann King, for that service, and this meeting uniting  
themselves has appointed them for the present year.

The Queries were read, together with answers  
from our several Quarterly Meetings from these, Abigail  
Arnold, Mary Tabor, and Sarah Russell are appointed  
to collect a summary, and present at a future sitting.

Dacas Brown, and Mary Enace, are appointed to  
prepare an endowment to place on the minute of our  
beloved Sarah Collins, now acceptably with us. \*see end of <sup>uted</sup> men

This meeting adjourns to the 4<sup>th</sup> hour to morrow  
afternoon.

3<sup>d</sup> day afternoon - met near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour.

An endowment to place on the minute of our beloved  
beloved Sarah Collins, was presented read, and approved.

An Essay of an Epistle to the Quaker Meeting  
of Women - Friends at New-York. was presented, and  
read, and after some small alterations, approved, and  
sign'd.

We adjourn to the 9<sup>th</sup> hour to morrow morning.

4<sup>th</sup> day morning, met agreeable to adjournment.

The Friends appointed to prepare a summary  
from the answers, presented one at this sitting, which  
was read, approved, and is as follows viz: -

Summary.

"It appears by Acc<sup>t</sup> received, that there is a good de-  
gree of concern manifested for the due attendance  
of all our meetings (some small ones not attended in  
case of indisposition, and inclement weather) yet a  
remissness in this important duty, is manifestly ob-

served in some, on whom labour has been bestowed: — Friends  
mostly preserved from keeping or other indecencies when  
assembled. A good degree of Love, and unity appears  
to exist among Friends generally, but it is painful to  
observe that it is not maintain'd by all in that degree  
that would suppress the spirit of Detraction, and pre-  
vent differences. . . . There are some in all our meetings  
who feel the weight of the important subject of educa-  
tion, and endeavour to discharge themselves faithfully  
by therein, yet there is cause to fear, that for want of a  
more thorough dedication and attention to the parenting  
of youth in some who have the precious youth under  
their care, many departures from the simplicity of our  
profession, and the path of rectitude have occur'd am-  
ongst us. — where any deviation has appeared in regard  
to the 4<sup>th</sup> Duty — care has been extended; and a general care  
appears to be extended in regard to the Prov, and the pla-  
cing of children. . . . Friends are generally careful to  
observe the requisitions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Duty, where deviations  
have appeared care has been taken.

Our testimonies appears to be pretty well supported  
in regard to the contents of the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Duties.

Not quite clear in regard to records, and Certificates —  
some care extended.

There appears to be a care on the minds of  
Friends in each meeting for the timely and regular  
dealing with those who disregard the order of Society,  
yet a more early labour is felt to be wanting in some  
instances, in order that judgements may be placed  
equally to discipline."



Essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of Ohio. Virginia. Indiana & Philadelphia. were presented, read, and approved.

It was proposed by Friends of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, that the term of that meeting which has heretofore been held at Leicester in the 11<sup>th</sup> month, be in future held in the same month at North-Bridge; this meeting unites with that of the men, in the proposed alteration.

A proposition was also made by Wapsalborough Quarter, to alter the time of holding their Quarterly Meeting of ministers, and Elders, from the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the same day on which it is now held, and the men's meeting informing us of their conclusion to refer said proposition to that Quarter we unite with them therein.

We adjourn to the same hour at which the men may conclude to meet this afternoon

4<sup>th</sup> day afternoon - meet near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour

The London Printed Epistle of the last year, containing much important counsel, has been read at this time.

An Essay of an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends at Baltimore, was read, and approved.

We were inform'd through the medium of the account from the Quarterly Meeting of \* women Friends at Salem, that they had appeared at the public appearances in the ministry of Hannah Hosier, and had united with Salem Monthly

\* omitted in the women's account

Meeting in the appointment of Charles Chase, & Daniel Johnson to the place of Elders, and in the removal of Srelatiah Durinton, and Reziak Durinton from said station.

We adjourn to the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour, to morrow morning. 5<sup>th</sup> day morning, much agreeable to adjournment.

The Boarding-School Committee presented the following report viz:

"That they have continued their attention during the past year, to the concerns of the Institution placed under their care, and feel encouraged to believe that the reasonable expectations of its Friends in regard to its usefulness to the children and union of society, will be measurably realized.

Matthew and Belsey Durinton, the former Superintendants, having express'd a desire to be released, the Committee have agreed with Enock and Lydia Good to take charge of the School in their capacity.

The same statistics are supplied as at the time of our last report. - The average number of Children at the School, has been about ninety. Their general conduct and improvement, have been satisfactory to the Committee. It is again concluded to admit from each Monthly Meeting, one child for six months, or two Children three months each, free of expense.

Our late friend Obadiah Brown having placed at the disposal of the Society, a liberal bequest to the Institution, as appears by the extracts from his Will accompanying our last Report, it has appeared to the Committee, that most benefit would result to Society at large, from an interpretation of a portion of the bequest to the defraying of a part of the expense of Board and tuition: with this view the Committee propose, that after the 1<sup>st</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> month next, Children may be admitted at the rate of sixteen dollars, per quarter.

On behalf of the Committee.

Arnold Congdon.

Mary A. Robinson.

Providence 4<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> mo: 1824.



which is united in this, and after a consideration of the subject of appointing a Committee, we have selected Alice Robinson, Lucia Bond, Mary B. Allen, Susan Tucker, Mary A. Robinson and Lucas Brown, to bring forward at another sitting, the names of such friends as they may think suitable to form a Committee for the present year.

We adjourn to the hour, that the men may meet this afternoon

5<sup>th</sup> day afternoon - met near the 4<sup>th</sup> hour

The Representatives being called are present except one, for whose absence, a satisfactory reason was produced at the first sitting.

The Friends under appointment to select a School-Committee, have proposed the following names. viz:—Lucas Brown, Eunice Mitchell, Iris Seane, Mary Buffington, Rhoda Howland, Elizabeth Barker, Alice Lockray, Jacob Cobb, Ruth Rodman, Mary B. Allen, Jacob Howland, Letitia Anthony, Hannah Collins, Mary A. Robinson, Anna A. Perkins, Eunice Kelley, Abigail Arnold, Elizabeth Emerton, Lucas Anthony, Ann L. Duffam, Mary G. Anthony, Elizabeth Reynolds, Hannah Dennis, Deborah Otis, Alice Rathbone, Susan Howland, Susanna Gardiner, Elizabeth Potch, and Sarah Barnard, and this nomination being united with by this meeting it has accordingly appointed them to that service, in the ensuing year.

An Essay of an Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of  
women-friends at North-Carolina, was presented and  
read, and being approved was sign'd.

The men's meeting having prepared certificates  
for our beloved friends Isaac Stephenson, and Wil-  
liam Forster jun: from Great-Britain (now accu-  
sably with us) - and their company, and Gospel labours  
having been truly edifying, the Clerk is directed to  
sign them on behalf of this meeting.

Transcripts of the Epistles rec<sup>d</sup> at this time, are  
forwarded under the sanction of this meetings to the  
several Quarters.

Altho' we have had through the several  
sittings of this meeting, much to exercise our faith,  
and patience; yet we feel bound to acknowledge with  
gratitude, that a portion of that "strength, which is  
made perfect in weakness", hath been season  
ably afforded, through the efficacy whereof we have been  
enabled to transact the concerns of society that have  
come before us, in harmony, and love.

We conclude, intending to meet again (if per-  
mitted) at the usual time and place, next year.

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting.

Ruthy Rodman

Clerk.

The 14<sup>th</sup>  
6<sup>th</sup> Mo: 17<sup>th</sup> 1824.



\* Omitted in place and time, (which was 2<sup>nd</sup> day afternoon) by reason of some doubt, respecting the expediency of noticing the reading of men's Certificates, on our minutes - it was left for further consideration, and examination of our records to see if it had at any former period been done, and altho' it does not appear that it has been customary yet we think there would be a propriety in doing so.

\* 2<sup>nd</sup> day afternoon

A Certificate was received and read on the 1<sup>st</sup> of our minute William Winstanley from the Monthly Meeting of Shropshire, and Sherborne held the 12<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> month 1819, endorsed by the Quarterly meeting of Dorset, and Dorset, held at Poole the 14<sup>th</sup> day of 4<sup>th</sup> month 1819, accompanied by one from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London, by adjournments, on the 14<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> month 1819. also one on behalf of our dear friend Isaac Stephenson, from Darlington Monthly Meeting, held 10<sup>th</sup> of 3<sup>rd</sup> month, 1823, and endorsed by the Quarterly meeting of Durham held in New-Castle upon Tyne in Great Britain 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> mos: 1823, together with one from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London by adjournments, on the 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of 5<sup>th</sup> month 1823.

\* Introductory note by the Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on  
Rhode-Island, for New-England, by adjournments from the  
14<sup>th</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> month to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same (inclusive) 1824.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends at New-York.  
Beloved Sisters.

The Love of our Heavenly Father we humbly trust  
has so far prevailed in this our summer assembly, as to uni-  
te many of our minds in the fellowship of the Gospel; and  
under a grateful sense thereof, we are drawn thus to address you  
Beloved sisters, feeling that we are but one body, although ma-  
ny members — and that we have but one Cause to promote,  
we are induced, at this time to unite our public efforts, in offer-  
ing a word of encouragement in the feelings of Gospel Love, and  
under this influence, our confidence has been renewed, that  
the foundation upon which the righteous in all ages have  
built their faith, and hope, is immutable: — And not-  
withstanding our infirmities, and the many discouragements  
that surround us, we have held the convincing persuasion,  
that the Lord is still mindful of us, and He who hath blessed  
us with so many tokens of divine regard, is yet waiting to show  
Himself gracious; and by the Spirit of his dear son Jesus Christ,  
our Lord is calling us to purity of heart, and nobility in all  
manner of conversation: — May we then consider the sacred duties  
that devolve upon us as Christians, and the responsibility we  
are under, as to a right use of all those gifts and talents, with which  
we have been intrusted: — Let us therefore watch diligently  
over our own spirits, to see that we are conformable to the Spirit  
of truth; that our example may be such, as becomes godliness, and  
that by access to the doctrine of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who  
will enable us faithfully to bear the light, and our testimony  
to the great truths of the Christian religion, which are  
wrought in us by the Spirit of God through his beloved Son,



unto whom He hath committed all judgment, "but not men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father."

As the right education of Children is of very great importance to them, and to the succeeding generation we tenderly desire that Parents, and such as have the care of youth, may encourage them as well by example as precept, to the frequent reading of the Holy-Scriptures; and that they begin as early as possible to instil into their tender minds, the principles of Truth, and instruct them in the necessity of being true themselves, without which our Lord declared - "none shall see the Kingdom of God" - and in order therunto, may we labour to bring them acquainted with the holy Sacrament, which is poured by the Divine hand in every heart for that gracious end; that they may through the Lord's blessing upon such pious endeavours, be induced to place their affections upon it, and cleaving thereto in faithful obedience, come to experience it to be unto them, "Christ within the hope of Glory" - frequently retiring, with desire, humbly to wait upon the Lord, our "Strength will be renewed," and it is those who are awakened to a due sense of their best interests we believe that those intervals have often proved times of much religious benefit; and each may often have to feel their faith low, even about to attend their meetings in the course of the week, and at times it may be under the feeling of deep discouragement, that these sacrifices of time, and opportunities of withdrawing from outward concerns have been blessed to many, and have proved reasons of refreshing from the Lord.

May our dear sister Sisters, <sup>who are as ancients among the people</sup> continue to trust in God and receive Divine assistance, which will enable them acceptably to endure the remaining conflicts of time, and being preserved in healings, and meetings of spirit, be prepared to enter into rest everlasting. - And may we all seek to fill our allotted stations in the Church militant, and in the day of glorious Rejoicing, we may be found worthy

of an admission into that City, whose "walls are Salvation  
and whose gates, are Praise".

Your acceptable Epistle of 5<sup>th</sup> month hath to the  
edification, and comfort of many of our minds.

We have been favour'd to attend to the important concerns ~~of~~ of Society, that have come before us in harmony, and we trust in a degree of Gospel-Love.

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting.

Wm. H. Norman M.D.

From the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends held on Rhode-  
Island for New-England by adjournments from the 14<sup>th</sup> of  
6<sup>th</sup> month to the 14<sup>th</sup> of the same (inclusive) 1824.

To Our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends to be held  
at Mount Pleasant.

Dear Sisters...

Altho' it is in the sensible feeling of inward poverty, and weakness, that we attempt to offer the salutations of Gospel love, we are nevertheless encouraged in believing that our strength is only perfected through weakness and a thorough re-  
surrection of self: and that He who giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might, increaseth strength, will not withhold his holy help in the needful time. Therefore may we dear friends be encouraged to abide the disconsolation with patience and stability, for surely it is a state in which we may be profited, and instructed, and as we are concerned to eye the Captain of our salvation who was made perfect through suffering, and who being touched with a feeling of our infirmities tenderly compassionates our weaknesses, agreeably to scripture testimony - "that for the sighing of the poor, and the crying of the needy," I will arise, saith the Lord, "I will open rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of valleys," thus will the Divine Master condescend to water



and to feed his humble dependent ones - that may none be discouraged, or dismay'd at the low state of things, but continue steadfastly to rely on that Eternal Arm of Power, which is able to put to flight the "armies of the allies", and to work wonderfully for the deliverance of his heritage.

And dear friends let us not shrink from the necessary baptisms allotted us, but be willing to keep under the purifying power of truth, and lay low as with our mouths in the dust; and as this becomes more, and more our experience, willing to be instructed as little children, we verily believe that in the Lord's own time, He will condescend to raise by the Power and Spirit of his dear Son, and cause him to "sit as in Heavenly places."

It is prophetically declared in the Scriptures of Truth, to be his divine mission to "proclaim liberty to the Captive - the opening of the prison to those that are bound - to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God - to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them beauty for ashes, the Oil of Joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness." -

And, for the beloved youth both amongst you, and us, we feel a tender solicitude, that they may be willing in the morning of their day, to hear him to the "reproofs of instruction" which remain to be the "way of life"; and by early submitting their will to the Divine will, and a willingness to dwell under the regulating power of truth in their own minds, may have to acknowledge as some of us in a degree can feelingly testify from experience - "That the work of righteousness, is Peace, and the effect thereof, quietness, and assurance forever".

We acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable Christmas of 9<sup>th</sup> month last - which was very to our comfort & satisfaction. With the salutation of love we remain your friends.

Signed on behalf of the meeting. Ruth Hodgman Clerk.



From our Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held on  
Rhode Island, for New-England by adjournments, from  
the 14<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> month, to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1824.  
To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends at Virginia.  
Dear Friends.

A remnant have been brought very low in  
this meeting, under a sense of their own weakness, and that unless  
the Lord is pleased to "keep the city, the watchman watcheth in  
vain". - and while we are thus humbled under a sense of  
our own weakness, we may acknowledge that there is still  
cause of thankfulness, in believing that He, who butteth  
forth, will not fail to go before: - and although infirmities  
are ours - and weakness doth abound, yet thro' watchful-  
ness, and a keeping near to the foundations of truth, we may  
be enabled to stand firm on that foundation, where neither  
divination nor enchantment shall be suffered to prevail.

But dear Sisters, how necessary it is that the reins of  
of our mind be girded with truth, that we "watch, and be  
sober", keeping the heart with all diligence, that our hope, and  
confidence may continue to the end; that it may not be  
said unto us, as unto a people perishing - "ye did run  
well for a season, who did hinder you, that ye should  
not obey the truth" - for would it not be better never to have  
known the truth way of the Lord, than to depart from the  
holy commandments. And dear friends, may none  
of us be induced to cast away our confidence in seasons  
of proving, even the precious grain of faith, until he shall  
be pleased to say "Fear not, I am with thee, be not dismay'd,  
I am thy God" - experiencing his judgments to be true, and  
righteous altogether, and He worthy to be waited on  
herein. In the younger part of the family both with  
you, and us, a concern has been felt, that they might be  
prevail'd upon to make the sacrifice of the morning  
of their days, and thus become increasingly acquaint-  
ed with the Holy-sud of life, and write upon it.



for their support; and strength to resist temptation  
and to save their Creator acceptably.

This our annual assembly has been truly trust-  
measurably aided by the divine presence, and we favour  
them to conduct the weighty concerns of society, in  
harmony and concord.

With the calculation of endear'd love, we remain  
your friends.

Sign'd on behalf of the meeting.

Ruthy Rodman. Clerk.

From the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends, held  
on Rhode Island, for New-England by adjournments  
from the 14<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> mo: to the 19<sup>th</sup> of the same / inclusive!  
1824.

To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends to be  
held at White Water, Indiana.

Dear Friends.

Under a deep sense, that of ourselves we can do  
nothing for the promotion or truth, or the encouragement of  
those, who feel bowed under the weight of many trials;  
but by the revival of that Love, which is both ancient,  
and new, we are at times strengthened with might  
in the inner man, and prepared to enter into sym-  
pathy with the exercised soul, however removing situation:  
we are renewedly confirm'd in belief, that the Divine  
arm is underneath for the support of all those who feel  
bound to the "law, and to the testimony."

Altho' in being permitted again thus to assem-  
ble in a Yearly Meeting capacity, we have not felt to be  
a season of abounding in that which is good; still  
we have cause gratefully to acknowledge that the love  
of our Heavenly Father has at this time been felt, to  
the uniting of many minds in an humble silent

travail, for the prosperity of Truth; and under its precious influence, we tenderly desire to offer the salutation of Gospel love, and encourage all daily to turn their attention unto Him, who hath said - "Look unto me, all ye ends of the Earth, and be ye saved;" - in so doing we may come to experience the name of the Lord, to be a "strong tower", and his "law perfect"; and as we are engaged to walk therein, we shall know an advancement in the Christian Course, and be enabled to keep our "eyes in righteousness": - Let us then, not be "weary, for in well-doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not": - And may we remember that it is only through suffering, that the work of Christian redemption is perfected, and we enabled to adopt the words of the Psalmist - "Thou hast girded me with strength unto battle - Thou hast subdued under me, those that rose up against me". -

And dear young friends - our hearts are warmed with love to you - we desire that it may be your frequent concern, to seek for an establishment on the only sure foundation, and to wait in humble watchfulness for the teachings of the Heavenly Instructor, that through the unholdings of Divine Counsel, you may be enabled to stand in that Faith, which giveth the victory.

As the state of society hath at this time been spread before us, and our attention turned to the different subjects thereof, a degree of the solemnizing power of Divine Love hath been felt to unite our minds in labour for the support of the testimony of truth.

We have received your acceptable Epistle of 10<sup>th</sup> month last.

Finally dear friends, may we all have









true, and living Faith, that the "man of God, may"  
be perfectly thoroughly furnished unto all good works.  
In love, Farewell. Signed on behalf of the meeting  
Wm. Woodman Clerk.

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From the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends held  
on Rhode Island, in New-England, by adjournments  
from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> month to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive  
1824. To the Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends at  
Philadelphia.

Beloved Sisters.

We have renewed cause of thank-  
fulness to the Father of mercies, and God of all com-  
forts for having again permitted us to be sensible  
that we are under his protecting care. His love  
and his merciful goodness have not been with-  
held in this our annual assembly and under  
a fresh persuasion, that He is still gracious &  
willing to do us good, we desire that all may be  
induced to offer their hearts to his disposal, their  
essentials as a sail, we may look with entire  
reliance unto Christ the great Merciful  
Church, who will lead us safely along, and  
be a shield from the sun, and from the storm,  
and teach us to "know his voice", and to dis-  
tinguish it from the "voice of the stranger", and  
enable us firmly to believe that we are in that  
"one fold", in which He is the everlasting Shep-  
herd, and that He will give unto us  
eternal life, and none shall pluck us out  
of His "holy hand".

But this statement of our  
friends, we aware is to be our's only as we

look in with me. He said "God's grace  
will come after me, let him say Amen, and  
take up his cross, saying" - These are words which  
we desire tenderly to press upon all, believing that  
in so doing, we shall find our spiritual strength  
renewed; and Divine Love, operating in our hearts  
begetting there, the love of our neighbour, will  
enable us to offer a word of counsel, in a way  
most calculated to produce the desired effect: -  
and as our beginning was in the Spirit, and our fellow-  
ship is under the holy influence of it, may we be frequent  
in humble waiting for the renewings thereof, and watch-  
ing in it, that the enemy of all good in his varied trans-  
formations may be seen & avoided, and we continued a  
people to the praise of his name, who have promised to be  
strong <sup>to</sup> those that turn the battle to the gate.

In turning our attention to the state of society, as it has  
been laid before us, we are renewedly confirmed that weak-  
ness is ours, still we firmly believe that the waiting  
dependent mind will be enabled to put on strength to  
persevere in the Christian course: and may the experience  
of us all be such, that we can adopt the words of the Psalm-  
ist - "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray".

We had a word of encouragement to our beloved young  
friends - if conflicts of mind should attend you, let it  
not be cause of dismay - for those who steadily pursue the  
path of a true disciple, will, through the goodness of the Lord  
at times be permitted to see that they are the objects of his paternal  
regard: thus will they have cause to acknowledge the  
great benefit of patient religious exercise, and become fully  
persuaded, that the unending power of redeeming love, tho'  
lightly esteemed by too many, is above all things precious.



We have received your accountable Epistle of 4<sup>th</sup> month last: and through Divine assistance have been enabled to transact the weighty affairs that have come before us, in love, and harmony; to the comfort and encouragement of those who keep Zion in remembrance, and are truly concerned in spirit, that her "righteousness may go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof, as a lamp that burneth." -

With the salutation of Love, we bid you affectionately farewell.

Sign'd on behalf of the Meeting, by  
Ruthy Woodman Clark.

From our Yearly Meeting of Women-Friends held at Newport, on Rhode-Island, for New-England, by adjournment from the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 6<sup>th</sup> month, to the 17<sup>th</sup> of the same inclusive 1824.

To the Yearly-Meeting of Women-Friends at Baltimore  
Dear Sisters.

It is under a humbling sense of our own nothingness, that we attempt to address you; feeling it to be indeed a season of deep wading, with the rightly assessed; that the seed of the kingdom is true, and that unless the Lord be pleased to arise for our help, vain will be our attempts to promote his cause: - but desires have been witness'd, that under all our provings, and various be- settlements, we may bear in mind, that the cause is the Lord's; and as we sink down to the true seed, and wait in patience, for its arisings, we shall know of being preserved on the only true foundation; and when the truth is raised into do- minion in our hearts, we shall have to acknowledge, that the "voice of the Lord, is mightier than the noise of many waters; yea, than the mighty waves of the sea." And altho' it may be the lot of some in the present day, to be encompass'd with many trials; yet as we endeavor to abide with this pure seed, and to be faithful

to its manifestations in our hearts, we shall be endued with true judgment, to the discerning of every false spirit, that may be rising up, and bringing forth fruits, that savoureth not of the wisdom, from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated; full of mercy, and good fruits; that this may be our individual experience, is no unyielding desire of our hearts, at the present season.

And for the beloved youth, in a particular manner we feel engaged; that they may keep their eye single to the pure light of Truth in their own hearts; which will condemn every appearance of evil; and will preserve them in the path of true simplicity, and lead them to set a proper value on the advice, and counsel of their more experienced friends; as also to prize as a precious privilege, the opportunities they may have of perusing the Holy Scriptures, and the writings of our worthy predecessors in society, which we believe have been blest'd to many of us, who are more advanced in years.

This, our annual assembly has been measurably moved by the Shepherd of Israel, who has condescended to grant a portion of that strength in which we have been enabled to transact the weighty affairs that have come before us, in harmony, and love.

We have rec'd your acceptable Epistle of 15<sup>th</sup> inst, the reading of which has been salutary to our minds.

In that love, which unites the church, and salvation of all, we conclude your affectionate wishes.

Signed on behalf of the meeting by,

Rowthorpe Hodgman  
Clarke.



From our yearly meeting of Boston. Friends held  
at Newport on Rhode-Island, for New England by ad-  
journing from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1844.

To the yearly meeting of Boston. Friends at  
New Bedford.

Dear Friends.

Having been favoured to assemble once  
more to transact the weighty concerns of society; and in avail-  
ing together under a sense of much weakness; we have been en-  
abled, (we humbly trust) in a degree of that freedom, which is  
"profitable to much," to enter feelingly into the state of things  
amongst us: - many, and formidable are the disencum-  
brances of the present day: - nevertheless, if we are concerned  
to abide in the "watch tower," in all lowliness of mind, with  
our spiritual eye single unto Jesus Christ, in Holy freedom-  
en; patiently waiting for the arising of the well-spring of  
eternal life, which we feel to be low, we shall ever gratefully  
to acknowledge, that through unmerited mercy, we have  
been favoured to partake a little of the fresh springing up thereof,  
whereby our minds are strengthened to offer the salvation of  
true love, which unites, and binds together, all the members  
of the militant Church of which Jesus Christ is the Head: -  
and our minds have been thus engaged, in the prosperity of  
Lebanon, and the enlargement of her borders," we are encouraged to  
hope, that many of our beloved young ministers, under the con-  
vincing influence of the Holy Spirit, are yielding to the persua-  
sive language of heavenly love in the secret of their own  
minds; and we feel a tender solicitude, that neither the fear  
of man - the opinion of the eyes, nor a revision to the simpli-  
city of the Truth, may interrupt their progress, but they be

encouraged to give in their names, to serve the Lord, whose  
"ways, are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths, peace". May  
you dear Sisters be strengthened to "go up to the house of the Lord,  
in company, and take sweet counsel together", and each be  
enabled to move in their allotted sphere of religious usefulness,  
and be prepared, upright Standard-bearers;— from the hope  
that many are under the purifying hand of Divine Power, we  
have at this season, been comforted.

The present, has been a time in which many of  
our minds have been humbled, under a sense of the continued  
goodness of Him, who in his own time, condescendeth to make  
"darkness, light before us, and rough places, smooth": thus through  
much weakness, strength is gained, and ability to continue the  
spiritual travail is felt; and by an inward reception of the  
pure Gospel, we are enabled to thank God, and take courage. May  
the titulated followers of our blessed Lord realize this promise  
"He that is in us, shall remain in us, and again—  
He that trust in the Lord, shall be as a rock firm, which cannot  
be moved, but abideth forever".

Under a sense, that we are not worthy to receive who  
remain to be "in Christ, and in his love", and in his precious promises,  
we bid you affectionately farewell.

Your acceptable Epistle of last year, has been received, and  
read to our comfort.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

Ruthy Woodman Clark



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